

GHOST IN THE SHELL

# 攻殻機動隊



SHIROW MASAMUNE





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S T O R Y   A N D   A R T   B Y  
**SHIROW MASAMUNE**

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VEST, AND MARILEE HORD COLLECTION EDITOR >> CHRIS WARNER  
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ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION PRODUCED BY STUDIO PROTEUS for DARK HORSE COMICS, INC.

## GHOST IN THE SHELL

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This volume collects issues one through eight of the Dark Horse comic-book series *Ghost in the Shell*.

Published by Dark Horse Manga, a division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. 10956 S.E. Main Street, Milwaukie OR 97222 >> [darkhorse.com](http://darkhorse.com) >> To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226



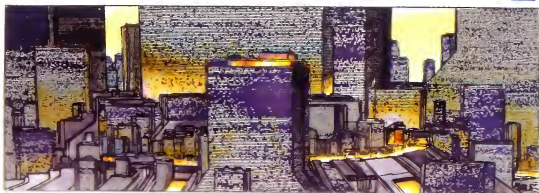
2nd edition: October 2004 >> ISBN: 1-59307-228-7  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 >> Printed in China





It is the near future. The world has become highly information-intensive, with a vast corporate network covering the planet, electrons and light pulsing through it. But the nation-state and ethnic groups still survive.

And on the edge of Asia, in a strange corporate conglomerate-state called "Japan"...

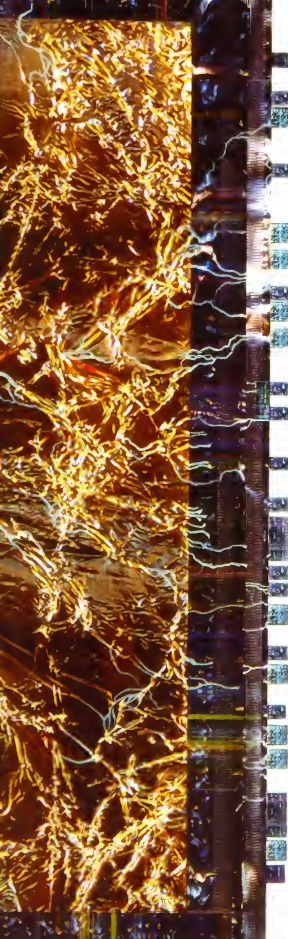


# 01

## PROLOGUE

This is a photograph of a growth-type neurochip, created at Harima Science City in 1998 (enlarged 50,000 times). The cells are nearly dead from over-growth, and cracks in neuro-fibers can be observed throughout the chip. Neuro-fibers have grown all the way out to the chip terminals, which are made of a relative of polystyrene coated with galactose. The fibers have even warped the thin film base on which the terminals themselves are etched. In the same month that the chip was developed, vast capital corporations (largely media conglomerates) began to form a huge network in the medical world that used micro-machines as supplementary "cyber-brains." Cyberbrain technology thereafter began shifting to a micromachine base, and by the year 2028 large number of neurochips were in use in AI and robotics.





SO WHY  
ARE WE STILL  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
SILICON  
DEPOSITS ?

March 5, 2029. Newport City, a floating metropolis  
in Shinhama Prefecture.



IT'S A GOOD ENOUGH  
REASON FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT TO  
GUARANTEE THAT  
IT WON'T INTERFERE  
WITH YOUR NATION'S  
POLICY OF NOT  
RECOGNIZING  
SEPARATION AND  
INDEPENDENCE."



THE EARLIER  
PROMISE OF  
"EXTENDING AID  
IF INDEPENDENCE  
IS RECOGNIZED"  
WAS ONLY  
MADE IN  
PRINCIPLE, AND  
DOES NOT  
CONFLICT  
WITH OUR  
"TRADE."

WE'LL GO  
THROUGH  
A THIRD-  
PARTY  
NATION.

THAT'S  
FINE.



AFTER ALL, IF A NATION OF SLAVES WITHHOLDS ITS SERVICES, THE MASTER NATION STARVES...

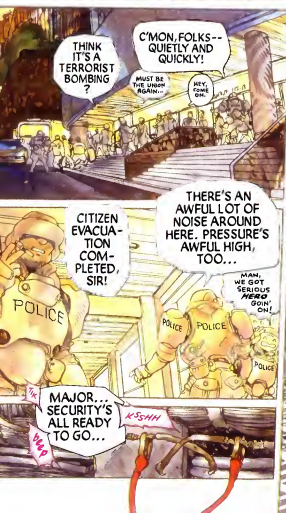
...AND A CHRONIC MANPOWER SHORTAGE WILL GIVE THE SLAVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY A SHOT IN THE ARM.

OF COURSE, IT'S DEViating A BIT FROM SOCIALISM.

I'M AMAZED AT YOUR COUNTRY... THE BRAINS CALL IT CAPITALIST, BUT IT'S REALLY AN IDEAL SOCIALIST STATE, ISN'T IT...?

LABOR CONDITIONS JUST DON'T WORK OUT THAT WAY... THE BRAINS CAN BE MANIPULATED WHEN NECESSARY WITH AN ALLOTMENT OF BLOOD...

WHERE THE HELL'S UNIT 2 ?!



THINK IT'S A TERRORIST BOMBING ?

C'MON, FOLKS-- QUIETLY AND QUICKLY!

MUST BE THE USUAL AGAIN...

HEY, FOLKS! OH!

CITIZEN EVACUATION COMPLETED, SIR!

THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF NOISE AROUND HERE. PRESSURE'S AWFUL HIGH, TOO...

MAN, WE GOT SERIOUS HERO GOIN' ON!

MAJOR... SECURITY'S ALL READY TO GO...



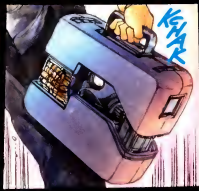
I HEAR YOU, I HEAR YOU...

LEAVE THE DAMN CODE ENCRYPTION UP TO THE A1 AND THE WHOLE WORLD'LL HEAR US...



ALL RIGHT!  
CUT THE  
ELECTROMAG  
SHIELD!  
ALL UNITS  
POWER UP  
COMMS!

GO GET  
'EM!



WHAT THE  
HELL'S  
THAT  
NOISE?



WE'RE SUR-  
ROUNDED  
BY PUBLIC  
SECURITY  
FORCES?  
YOU'RE  
KIDDING!



BRITTTTT



HNGK!  
STAK

STAK STAK



AAGH!



THE POLICE HAVE THEIR TARGET SURROUNDED, BUT IF THEY FIRE THEY'LL HIT THEIR COMRADES. I DON'T RECOMMEND TRYING THIS, DEAR READERS.

WELL, WELL...IF IT ISN'T A FAR EAST TRADE REP, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND AN EXECUTIVE OF THE UNION....

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND US IMPOUNDING YOUR WEAPONS...

DAMN YOU, ARAMAKI!

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE SELF-DEFENSE AGENCY'S BEEN WATCHING ALL THIS...

AND NOW WE'VE FINALLY GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DECLARE YOU ALL *PERSONA NON GRATA* AND DEPORT YOU.

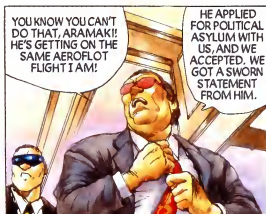
AND AS FOR MR. ITO, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE YOU ATTEND A LITTLE HEARING.

WE'LL NEED YOU, SIR, TO TESTIFY IN DETAIL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF OUR LATE PRIME MINISTER AND ON WHO LEAKED THE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CONFERENCE SITE.

YOU'LL GET A SUBPOENA BEFORE THAT, ARAMAKI!

THIS'LL BE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT!

I... I'M DEAD.



HE APPLIED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM WITH US, AND WE ACCEPTED. WE GOT A SWORN STATEMENT FROM HIM.

WHEN?!



I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THAT.

BUT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PUT HIM UNDER OUR PROTECTION AND TAKE HIM BACK WITH US!



WELL, IF WE'RE TALKING LAW, THEN UNDER INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS, WE DEMAND YOU HAND IT OVER TO US!



PUT IT IN WRITING AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU AFTER I TAKE IT UP WITH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.



AND BY THE WAY, THE ASYLUM FORMS ARE AT THE EMBASSY. I'LL FORWARD A COPY TO YOU LATER...



WELL, I TO? THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?

YOU'LL BE ASSASSINATED, YOU KNOW.

HMPH

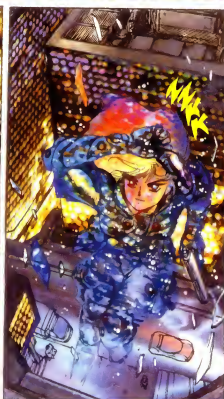
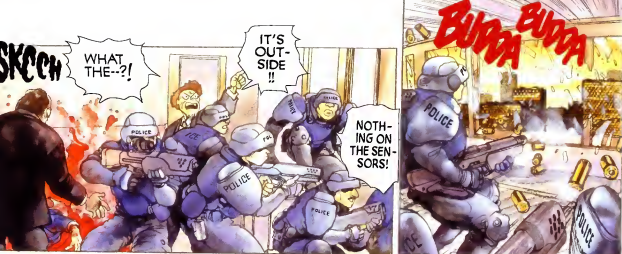
4.D., PEOPLE LIKE ITO ARE KEPT AS HOSTAGES UNTIL THEY'RE OF NO USE, AND THEN EXCHANGED FOR SPIES, ETC., WHO'VE BEEN CAUGHT



COME, MR. ITO KNOWS WE'RE A CIVILIZED, PEACE-LOVING NATION...



DELAYED-FUSE, SOFT-HEAD EXPLOSIVE SHELLS

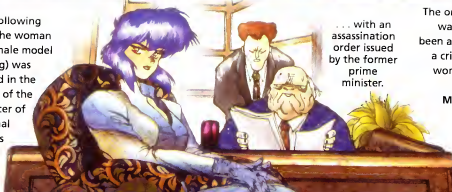


2902 REFERS TO A MODIFIED MODEL BUILT IN THE YEAR 2029.

The following day, the woman (a female model cyborg) was seated in the office of the Minister of Internal Affairs

... with an assassination order issued by the former prime minister.

The only thing certain was that there had been a need to resolve a crisis and that the woman (or women) known as Major Motoko Kusanagi (obviously an alias) was extremely talented.





# 02

S U P E R  
SPARTAN

10. 4. 2029





*breep breep*

TIME TO  
GET TO  
WORK,  
MAJOR.

I WANT  
YOU TO  
JOIN *SUSEN*  
IN SOUTH  
SHINHAMA,  
WARD 4,  
AND STAND  
BY.



"WORK."  
?!  
WHAT'S  
THAT?

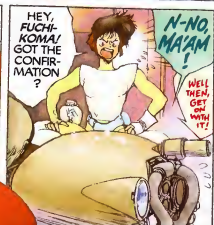
THE BUDGET YOU  
IDIOTS ASKED FOR  
PASSED, SO GET  
YOUR BUTTS  
IN GEAR!

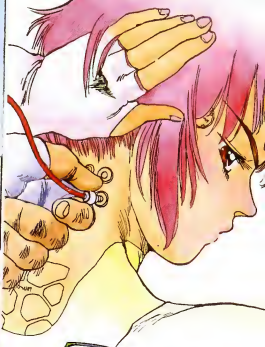


HEY,  
FUCHI-  
KOMA!  
GOT THE  
CONFIR-  
MATION  
?

N-NO,  
MA'AM  
!

WELL  
THEN,  
GET  
ON  
WITH  
IT!





JEEZ, DON'T MAKE THOSE HORRIBLE SOUNDS. GIVES ME THE CREEPS...

UNG!

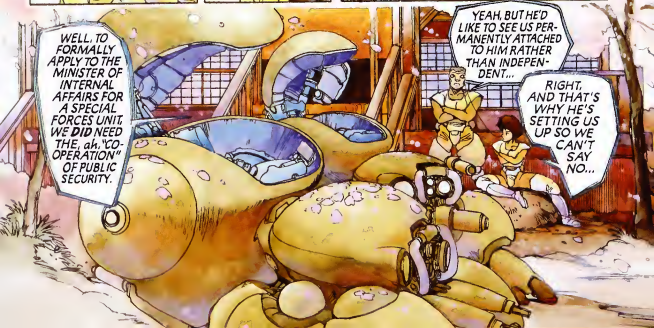


CAN'T HELP IT, SO WHAT'S UP?  
BATOU! MY NEW AUDIO IMPLANT'S GOT A BAD CONNECTION.



OLD APE-FACE IS QUITE THE LITTLE MANIPULATOR.

THERE WERE THREE IN FAVOR OF THE DEAL, TWO AGAINST, AND ONE ABSTENTION.



WELL, TO FORMALLY APPLY TO THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR A SPECIAL FORCES UNIT, WE DID NEED THE, ah, "CO-OPERATION" OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

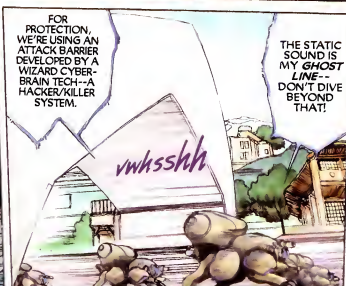
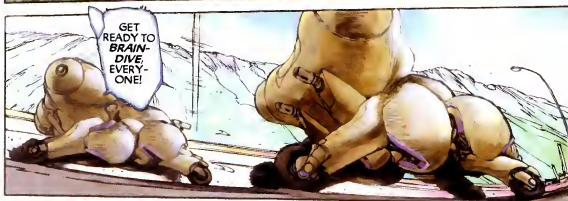
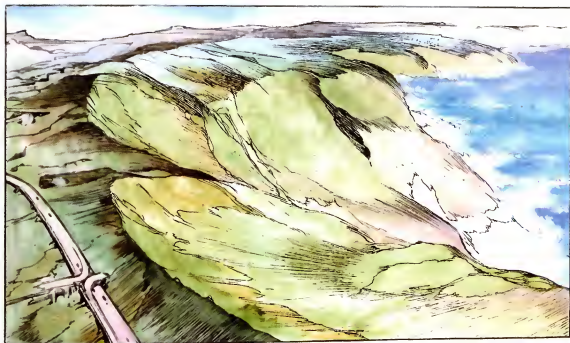
YEAH, BUT HE'D LIKE TO SEE US PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO HIM RATHER THAN INDEPENDENT...

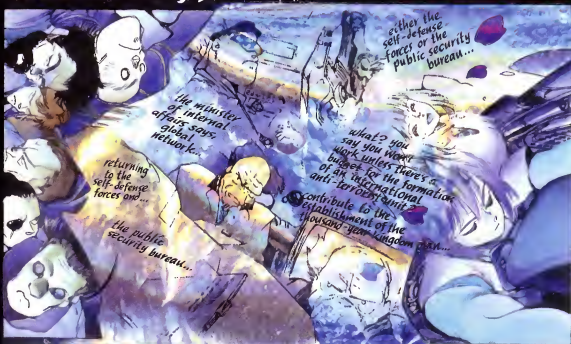
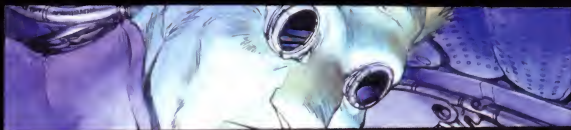
RIGHT, AND THAT'S WHY HE'S SETTING US UP SO WE CAN'T SAY NO...

HAVE-REPORT-  
THAT-BUDGET-  
HAS-PASSED-  
IN-327TH-  
SESSION-OF-  
NATIONAL-  
COUNCIL.  
NOW-  
RECONFIRMING.

**OKAY!  
OUR ROUND-  
THE-CLOCK  
CHERRY  
BLOSSOM  
VIEWING  
PARTY'S  
OVER!**







either the  
self-defense  
forces or the  
public security  
bureau...

the minister  
of internal  
affairs says:  
global  
network...

returning  
to the  
self-defense  
forces and...

the public  
security bureau...

what? you  
say you want  
work unless there's a  
budget for the formation  
of an international  
anti-terrorism unit?  
contribute to the  
establishment of the  
thousand-year kingdom plan...

DAMN,  
THERE'S A  
LOT OF  
NOISE IN  
YOUR  
BRAIN,  
MAJOR...

HEY,  
I'M  
ON  
MY  
PERIOD!

MAJOR,  
YOUR PROS-  
THETIC  
HAND  
HURTS  
A BIT,  
DOESN'T  
IT...

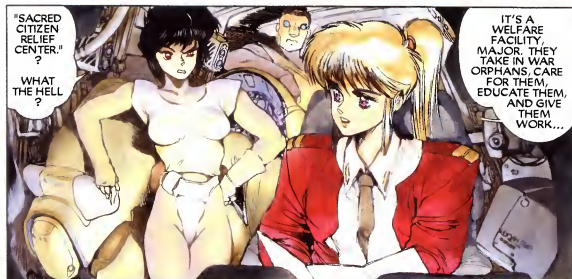
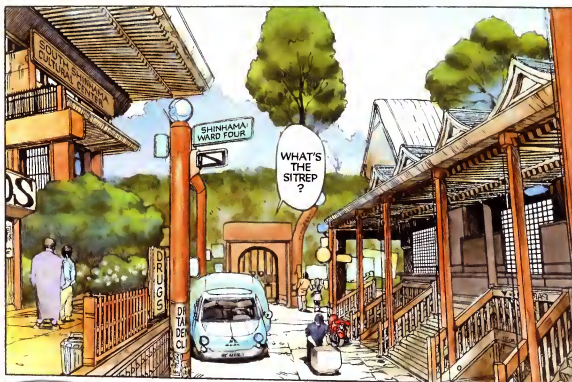
WHAT'S  
THIS BITTER  
TASTE...  
YOU TAKING  
A TRANQUIL-  
IZER?

OKAY,  
GUYS, YOU  
GOT YOUR  
DATA-NOW,  
ANYBODY  
NOT CLEARED  
OUT IN TWO  
SECONDS  
GETS  
BRAIN-  
BURNED!

DAMN!  
THE  
BASTARDS  
DOVE CLOSE  
TO MY  
GHOST.

THAT'S  
WHY I HATE  
LETTING THOSE  
INSENSITIVE  
BRUTES  
INTO MY  
BRAIN...

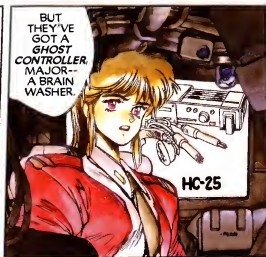
VREEE





WELL THEN, YOU DON'T NEED US...

SEE YA LATER...

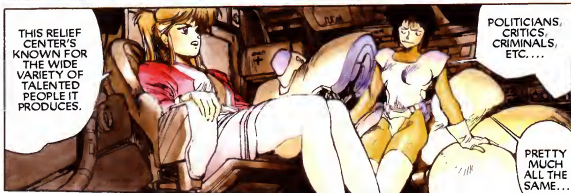


BUT THEY'VE GOT A GHOST CONTROLLER. MAJOR-- A BRAIN WASHER.

HC-25



HOW ANACHRONISTIC...!



THIS RELIEF CENTER'S KNOWN FOR THE WIDE VARIETY OF TALENTED PEOPLE IT PRODUCES.

POLITICIANS, CRITICS, CRIMINALS, ETC. ...

PRETTY MUCH ALL THE SAME...

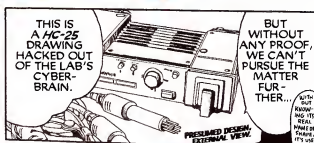


AT THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU THEY CALL IT A "HUMAN FACTORY..."

THEY NEED IT, BUT A FEW BAD APPLES CAN CREATE A REAL SOCIAL PROBLEM...



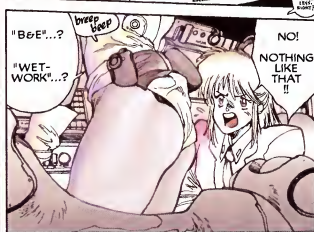
HAH... YOU MEAN THE BAD APPLES ARE AFRAID OF BAD APPLES?



THIS IS A HC-25 DRAWING HACKED OUT OF THE LAB'S CYBER-BRAIN.

BUT WITHOUT ANY PROOF, WE CAN'T PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER...

WITH OUT KNOWING ITS REAL VALUE OR FRAME, IT'S USELESS, RIGHT?



"B&E"...?

"WET-WORK"...?

NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT !!



THE GOAL  
HERE IS TO  
BE ABLE TO  
TAKE CARE  
OF THE  
PROBLEM  
AND TO  
"ARREST"  
THEM IF  
NEED  
BE...

TO  
"OFFICIALLY"  
DO THAT  
WITHOUT  
ANY  
EVIDENCE  
OR AN  
ARREST  
WARRANT?



SO  
WHY  
DO THEY  
HAVE  
IT  
HERE...?

THEY'VE  
TRIED TO  
GET A  
HACKER  
IN AND  
FAILED,  
EH?

TOO--  
MUCH--  
FOR--  
ME...



DO YOU  
WANT TO  
SYNCHRO-  
DIVE AND  
CHECK?



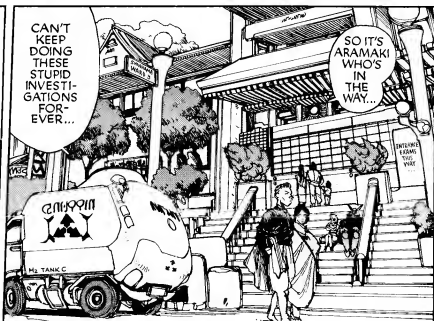
THE CENTRAL  
CYBER-BRAIN  
BARRIER HERE  
IS A COMPLEX  
MAZE OF  
SIMULATED  
EXPERIENCES,  
SO THEY  
COULDN'T  
INFILTRATE IT,  
BUT THEY  
DEFINITELY  
GOT A HIT.

THE MANAGER  
OF THE DUPLICATE  
CODE KEY FOR THE  
LAB'S CENTRAL  
CYBERBRAIN IS  
FROM HERE,  
AFTER ALL...

'COURSE  
HE'S  
MISSING  
NOW,  
THOUGH.



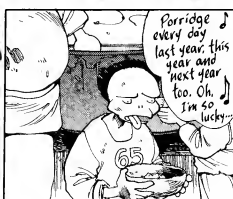
DAMN THAT  
ARAMAKI-- HE'S  
TRYING TO FORCE  
US INTO AN  
ATTACK BASED  
ON FALSE INTEL,  
AND THEN IF  
THERE'S A LAW-  
SUIT HE'LL  
HANG ME OUT  
TO DRY...



CAN'T  
KEEP  
DOING  
THESE  
STUPID  
INVESTIGATIONS  
FOR-  
EVER...

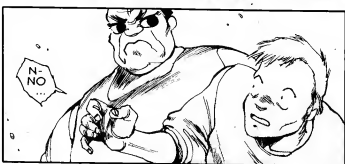
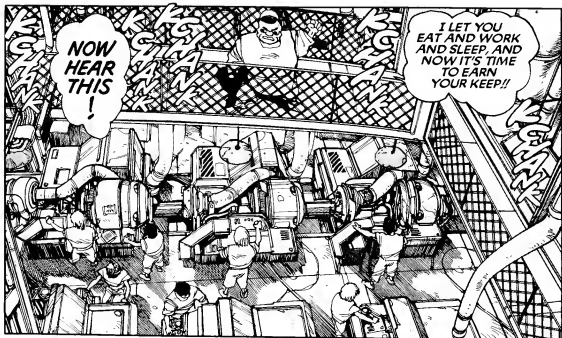
SO IT'S  
ARAMAKI  
WHO'S  
IN  
THE  
WAY...

ENTERING  
EAGLES  
THE  
WAY...

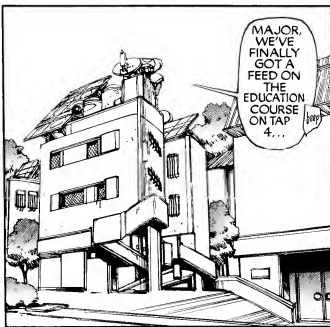
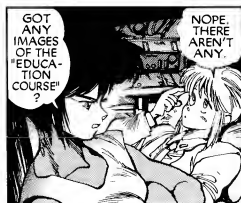




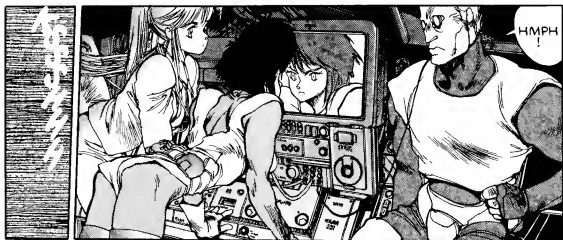


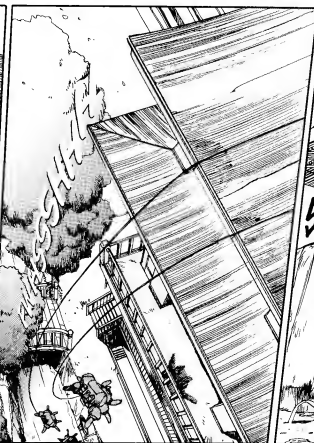


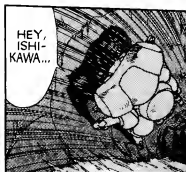
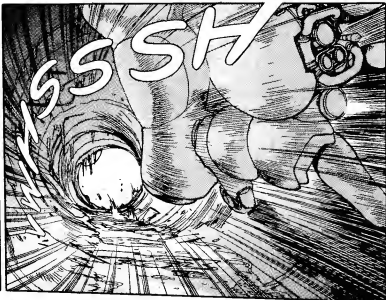










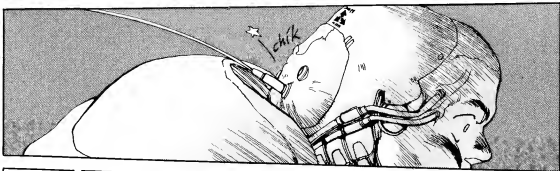
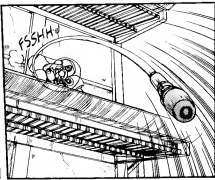
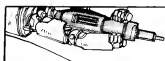
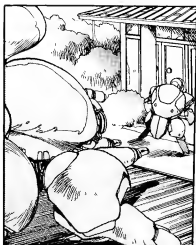


SOME-THIN' BUGS ME ABOUT THIS...

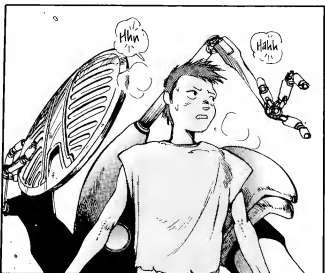


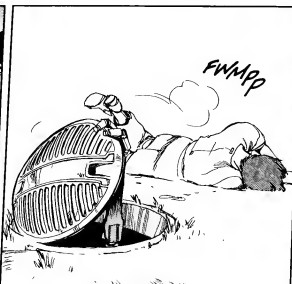
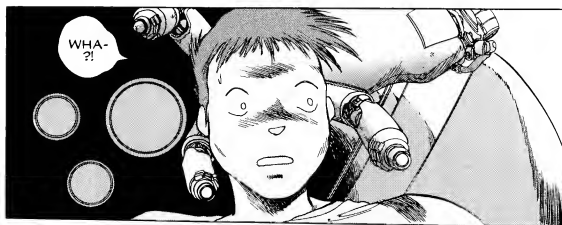
OUR CRAZY GORILLA-BABE'S CALLIN' THE SHOTS...

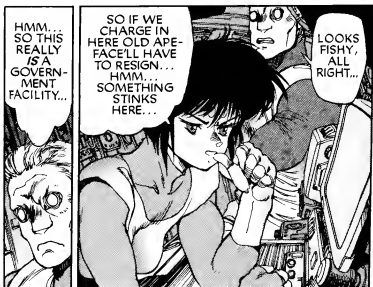
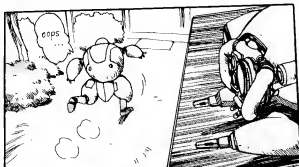
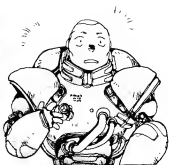
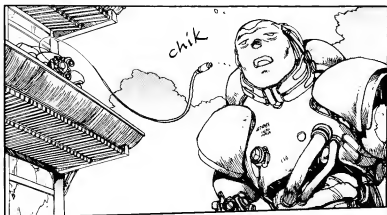




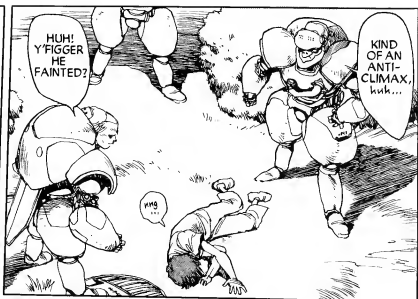
THEIR SECURITY'LL  
"SLEEP"  
FOR 25  
SECONDS.  
YOU GOT  
THAT,  
KIDDO  
?











HUH!  
Y'FIGGER  
HE  
FAINTED?

KIND  
OF AN  
ANTI-  
CLIMAX,  
huh...

YING

BOO



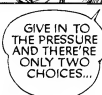
THREE  
ESCAPE  
ATTEMPTS  
AND THEY  
BRAIN-  
WASH  
HIM...



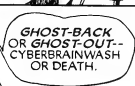
POOR  
KID...



HE  
KNOWS  
THE RULES.  
THIS IS A  
SUICIDE  
ATTEMPT...



GIVE IN TO  
THE PRESSURE  
AND THERE'RE  
ONLY TWO  
CHOICES...



GHOST-BACK  
OR GHOST-OUT--  
CYBERBRAINWASH  
OR DEATH.



SO  
THIS IS A  
GOVERN-  
MENT  
BRAIN-  
WASH  
CENTER...

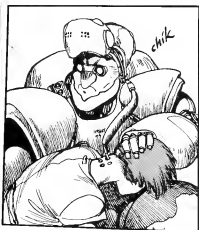
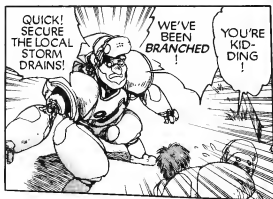
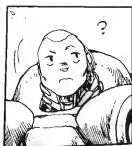
WHY THE  
HELL DOES  
SECURITY  
WANT US  
TO DO AN  
OFFICIAL  
INVESTIGATION...

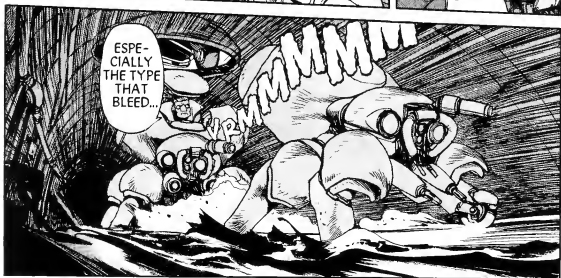


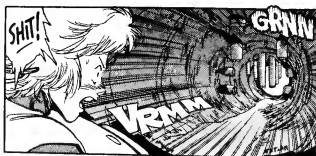
IT'S A TRAP.  
MAJOR APE-  
FACE PROBABLY  
NEVER GAVE  
YOU THE ORDER.  
HELL, IT'S  
PROBABLY ALL  
A VR SIM...

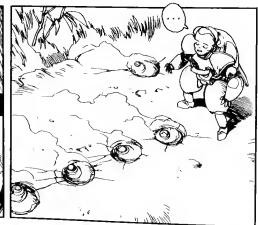
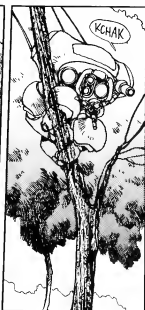
GET REAL,  
BATOU--MY  
BARRIER  
ELEMENTS  
AREN'T  
THAT  
CHEAP

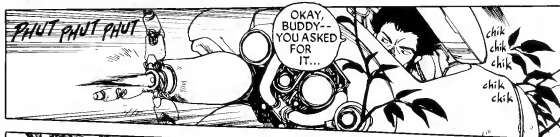


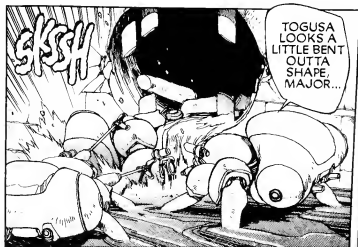




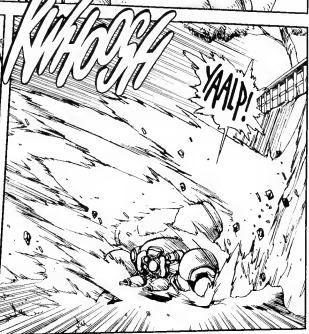
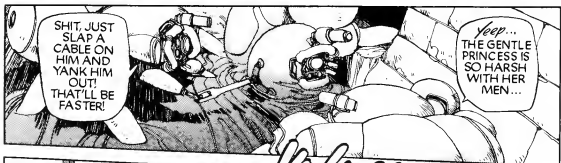




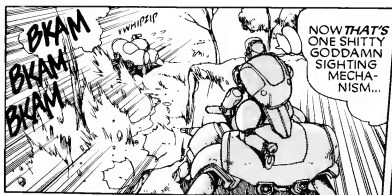


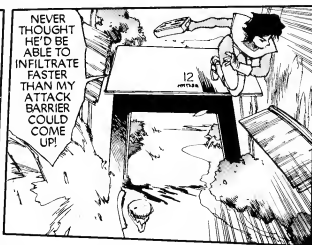


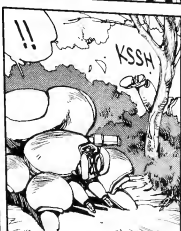
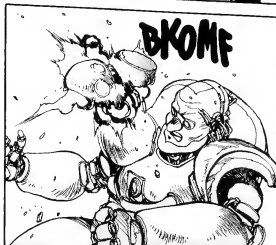
TOGUSA  
LOOKS A  
LITTLE BENT  
OUTTA  
SHAPE,  
MAJOR...





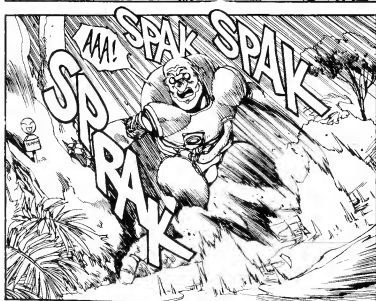




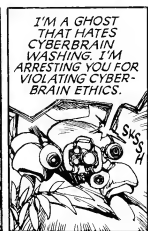


SHIT, THAT WAS CLOSE! GOOD THING I HAD MY ACTIVE PROTECTOR SUIT ON... I'VE GOTTA WIPE THAT WEIRDO SQUAD LEADER BROAD...





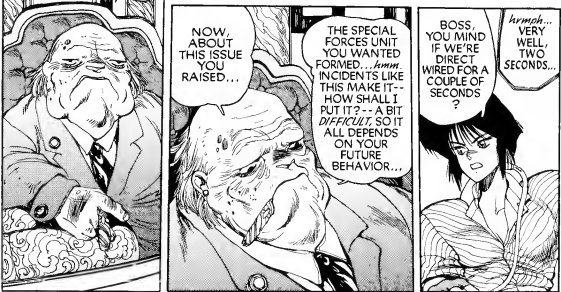
\* NAME OF AN ALL-WEATHER, THERMO-OPTICAL CAMOULAGE SUIT KYO-RE IS THE MANUFACTURER'S NAME





DO YOU JUST WANT TO EAT AND CONTRIBUTE NOTHING, TO BE BRAINWASHED BY MEDIA TRASH? TO SACRIFICE THE NATION'S FUTURE FOR YOUR OWN SELFISHNESS?







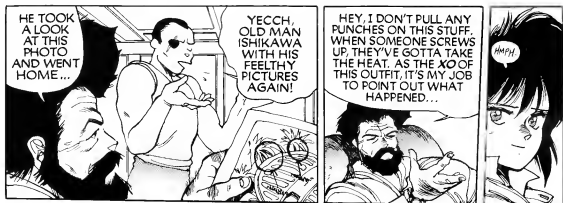


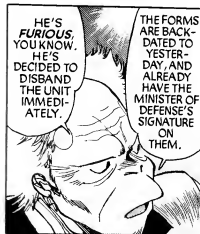
I'D RATHER  
BE TRANS-  
FERRED THAN  
JUST BE AN  
ERRAND-GIRL  
FOR THOSE  
PUBLIC  
SECURITY  
PUKES.

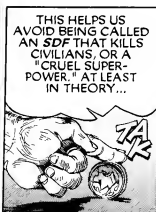
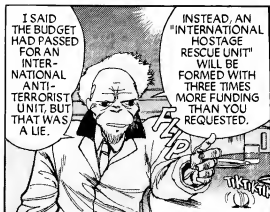
DON'T  
YOU GUYS  
SWEAT IT...  
I'LL SLAP  
TOGETHER  
GREAT  
FITNESS  
REPORTS FOR  
YOU ALL...

HEY...  
WHERE'S  
TOGUSA?  
I DON'T  
SEE HIM...

GUESS  
THAT'S  
THE END  
OF MY  
MILITARY  
CAREER...

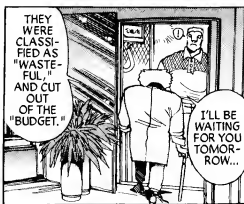


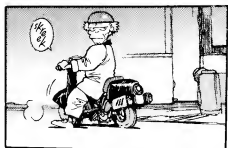




YOU'LL IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND ELIMINATE IT. IT'S THE SORT OF OFFENSIVE UNIT YOU AND I HAVE BOTH DREAMED OF FOR YEARS... BUT NOW IT'S UP TO YOU AND YOUR MEN.









# 03

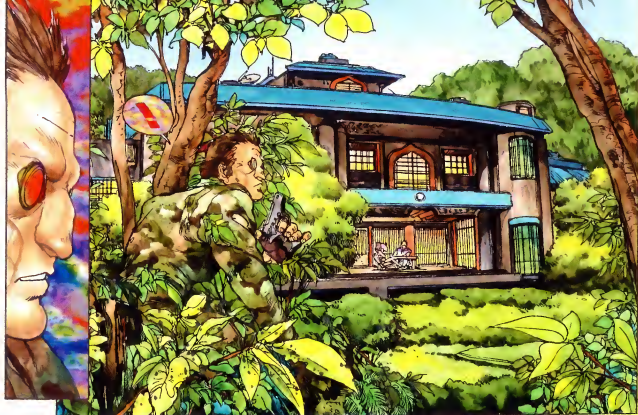
J U N K  
JUNGLE

27. 7. 2029





GORGON MINE: AN ENGLISH-TYPE ANTI-PERSONNEL CANISTER MINE THAT JUMPS UP ABOUT TWO METERS WHEN TRIGGERED AND THEN SCATTERS AROUND A HUNDRED MINI-MINES (TRIGGERED TWO SECONDS AFTER LANDING BY ANY VIBRATION OCCURRING WITHIN A THREE METER RADIUS).



SNAP

PSST,  
IT'S  
ME...



CHAK

WELL,  
SEE ANY-  
THING?

AFTER THIRTY-  
TWO HOURS ON  
STAKEOUT, I'VE HAD  
TWO PHONE CALLS,  
AND THAT'S ALL...  
NO REPLACEMENT,  
NO PIZZA, NO  
NOTHING...

WELL,  
HERE,  
HAVE A  
SWIG...



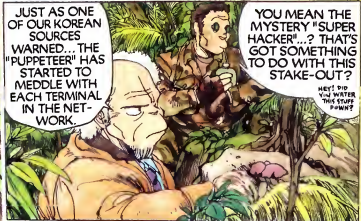
DON'T  
MIND IF I  
DO...



JUST AS ONE  
OF OUR KOREAN  
SOURCES  
WARNED... THE  
"PUPPETEER" HAS  
STARTED TO  
MEDDLE WITH  
EACH TERMINAL  
IN THE NET-  
WORK.

YOU MEAN THE  
MYSTERY "SUPER  
HACKER"...? THAT'S  
GOT SOMETHING  
TO DO WITH THIS  
STAKE-OUT?

HEY! DID  
YOU HEAR  
THIS STUFF  
PUNK?







FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THEY'RE PLANNING ON INTERFERING WITH THE SECRET MEETING WITH THE GAVEL REPUBLIC...

WELL, IN THAT CASE, IT'S HARDLY A **SECRET** MEETING, IS IT...

SO, I'M STAKING OUT SOMEBODY WHO LEAKED THE INFO ON THE MEETING, EH? THE GUY WHO TRIED TO INTERFERE BY HIRING THE "PUPPETEER"?



HE'S JUST THE LEADER OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, APPLYING FOR ASYLUM... THAT'S ALL.



YOU CAME OUT HERE JUST TO TELL ME **THAT**?

OF COURSE NOT! I WANT YOU TO CALL MAJOR KUSANAGI ON YOUR ENCRYPTED CHANNEL. TELL HER TO REPORT TO FLAT #17!

BUT SHE'S ON **R&R**, CHIEF...



WELL, IT'S CANCELLED...

UH-OH...





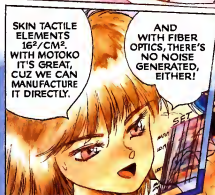
WHAT ABOUT PHALANX?

IT'S IN THE ENDORNO PROBE DEVICE... \$8000?...



PRICES ARE GOING UP...

GIVES ME AN ADRENALINE RUSH...



SKIN TACTILE ELEMENTS 16<sup>2</sup>/CM<sup>2</sup>. WITH MOTOKO IT'S GREAT, CUZ WE CAN MANUFACTURE IT DIRECTLY.

AND WITH FIBER OPTICS, THERE'S NO NOISE GENERATED, EITHER!



I'M GOING TO SHIFT TO MULTI-MODE AND START RECORDING NOW...

OKAY...

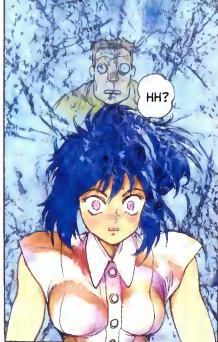


GOSH, WHERE'D YOU FIND AN EQUALIZER WITH UP TO FIVE TIMES THE NUMBER OF TACTILE TRANSFORMATION ZONES...?

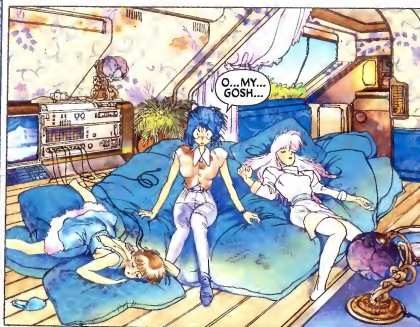
I PUT IT TOGETHER MYSELF! IT'S A PROTOTYPE MICROSLAVE APPLICATION...







HH?

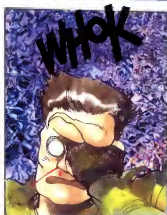


O...MY...  
GOSH...

ORGG...  
I GOT AN  
AWFUL  
SENSATION IN  
MY GUT...

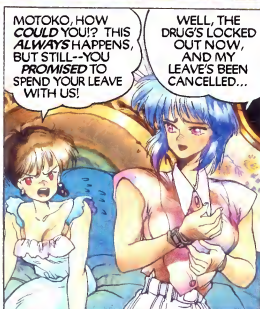
GOOD THING  
IT'S NOT AN  
ORGAN WHERE  
I'VE GOT A  
TERMINAL...

IT'S ALL  
SLIMY AND  
STICKY, LIKE  
COPULATING  
SLUGS. JEEZ,  
MAJOR,  
WHAT'RE  
YOU--?



MAJOR!  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
SUM-  
MONED  
TO #17!  
CHIEF'S  
ORDER!

TELL THE  
OLD FART  
I'LL BE  
THERE IN 20  
MINUTES!



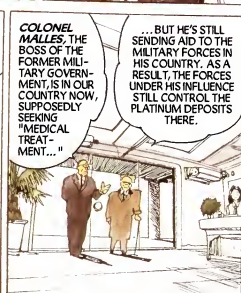
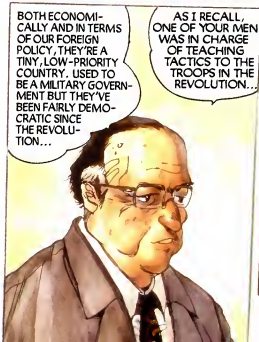
MOTOKO, HOW  
**COULD** YOU!? THIS  
**ALWAYS** HAPPENS,  
BUT STILL--YOU  
**PROMISED** TO  
SPEND YOUR LEAVE  
WITH US!

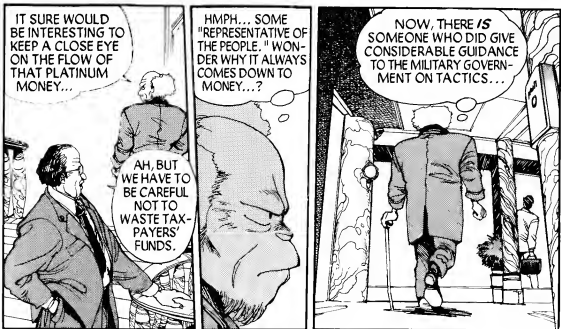
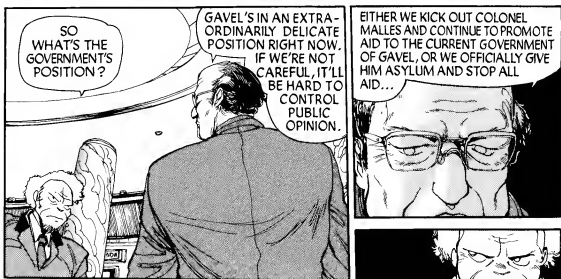
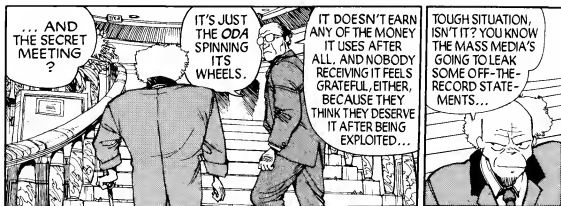
WELL, THE  
DRUG'S LOCKED  
OUT NOW,  
AND MY  
LEAVE'S BEEN  
CANCELLED...

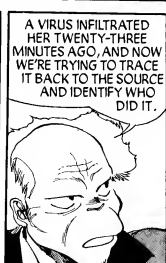


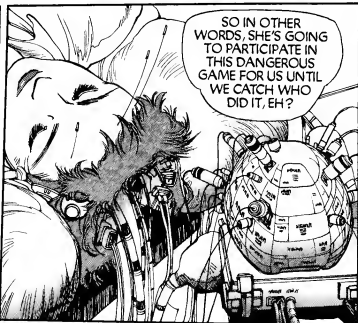
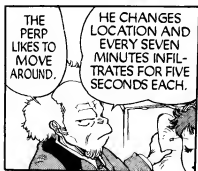
HEY,  
DON'T  
TAKE  
THE  
EQUAL-  
IZER...!

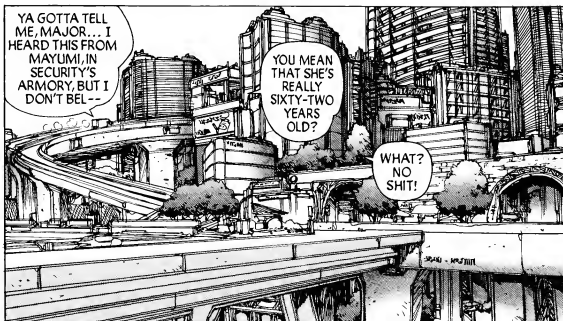
WHEN  
YOU LEAVE  
MAKE SURE  
YOU LOCK  
THE DOOR.  
I'LL CALL  
YOU  
LATER...  
TA TA!





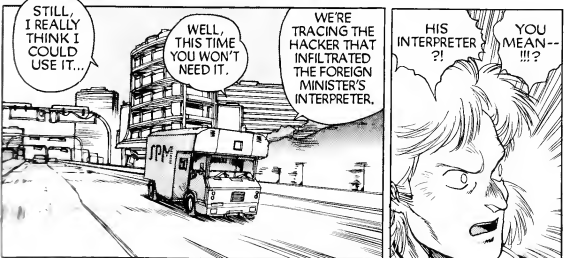
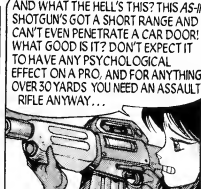


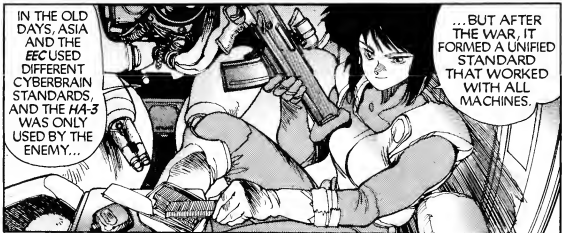
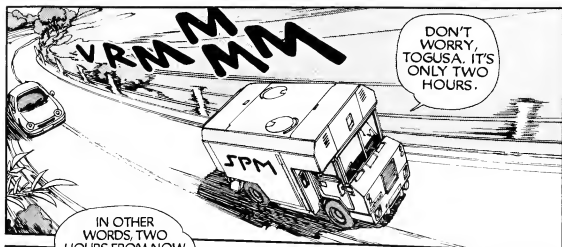




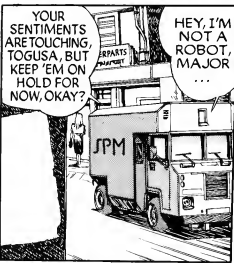
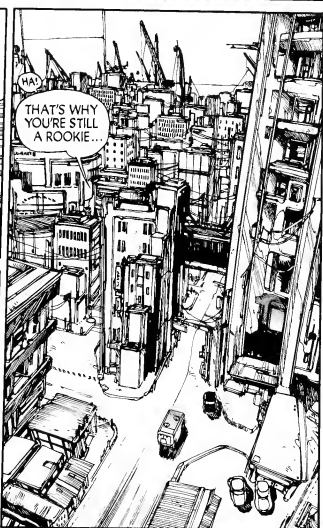
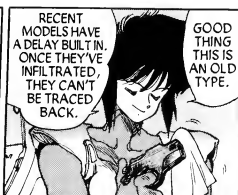


SEBURO™ C-25: THINK OF IT AS AN FN P90 WITH A LOWER MAGAZINE!

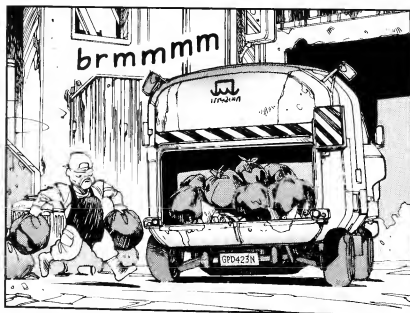
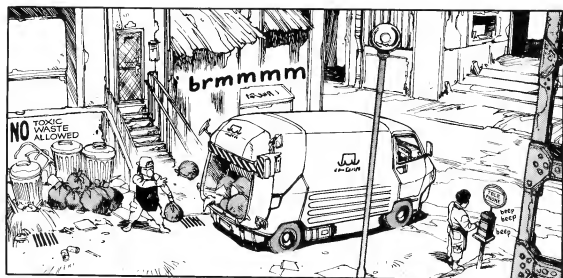


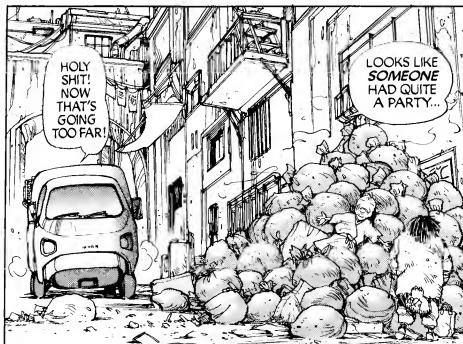
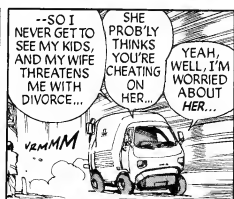


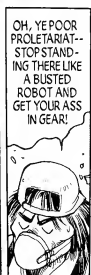
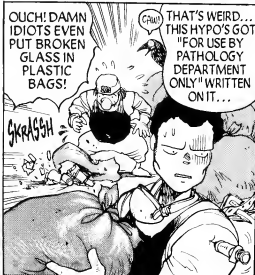
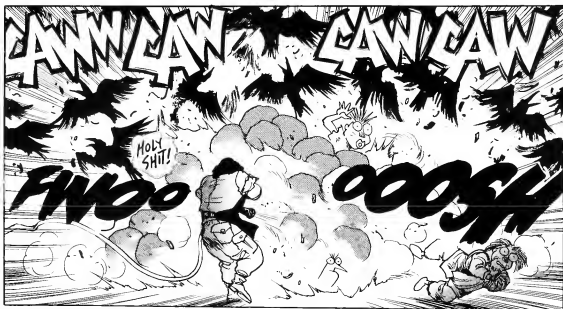
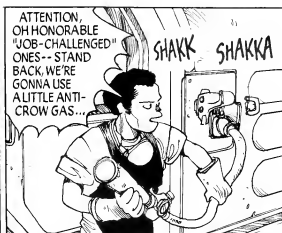
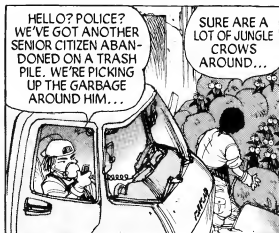


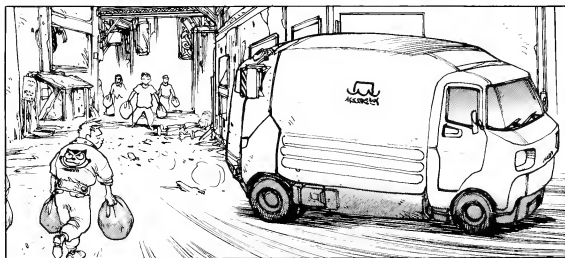
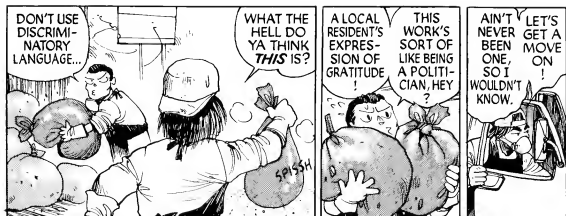


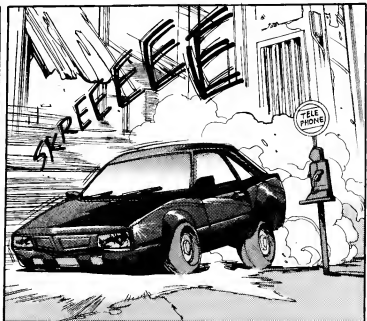
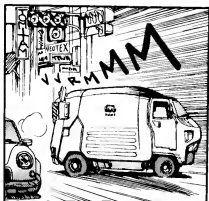
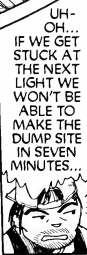
After this, there's a scene where Mokoto takes over the driving and Togusa checks his gear and puts it on, but it was too much of a hassle to draw so I left it out. .

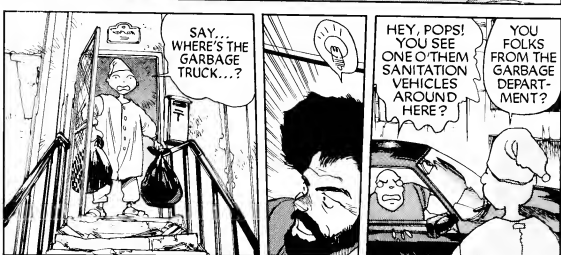
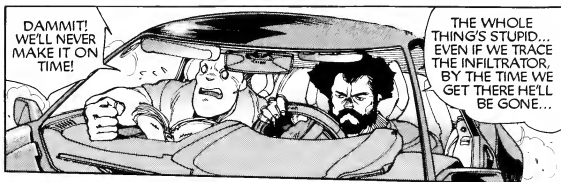


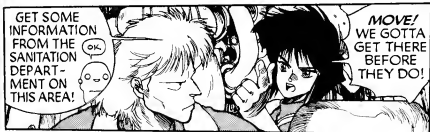
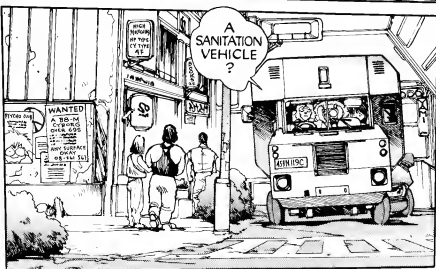
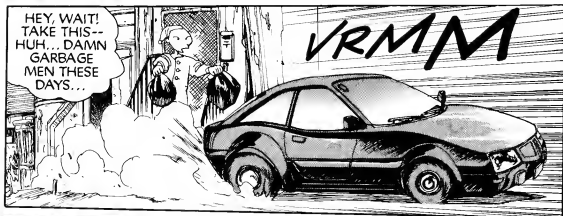








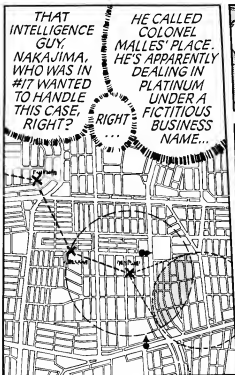








GOOD! NOW,  
DON'T LAY A  
FINGER ON THEM  
EVEN IF YOU FIND  
THEM. I WANT  
YOU TO FOLLOW  
UNDETECTED,  
UNDERSTAND?!



THAT  
INTELLIGENCE  
GUY,  
NAKAJIMA,  
WHO WAS IN  
#17 WANTED  
TO HANDLE  
THIS CASE,  
RIGHT?

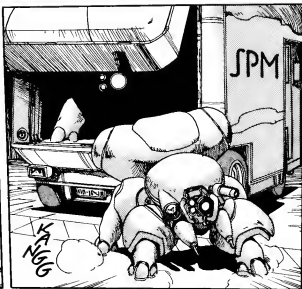
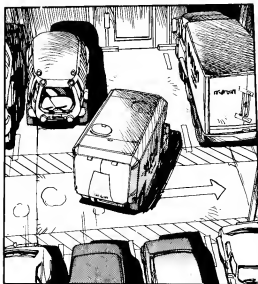
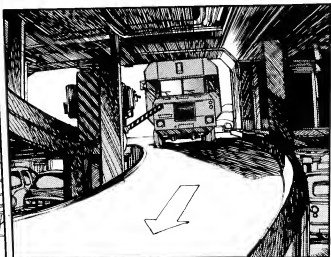
RIGHT  
...

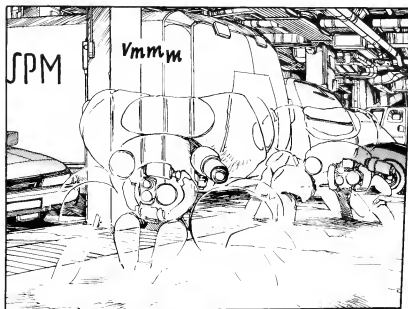
HE CALLED  
COLONEL  
MALLES' PLACE.  
HE'S APPARENTLY  
DEALING IN  
PLATINUM  
UNDER A  
FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS  
NAME...



HOW'S  
THE INTER-  
PRETER  
DOING?

SHE'S MAINTAIN-  
ING...  
DON'T LET  
ANYONE  
KNOW WHAT  
WE'RE DOING.





AREN'T YOU OVER-DOING THIS A BIT?

YOU WANNA PULL A HALF-ASSED OP?



HEY, THIS MAY BE SOME GARBAGE MAN'S IDEA OF A PRANK...



GIVE ME A BREAK, TOGUSA!

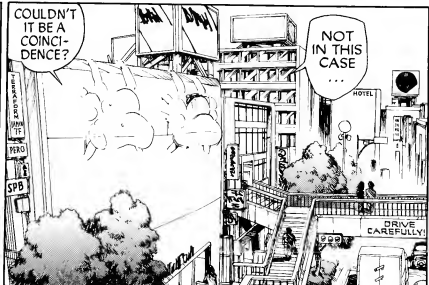


JEEZ, STOP PICKIN' ON ME, MAJOR!

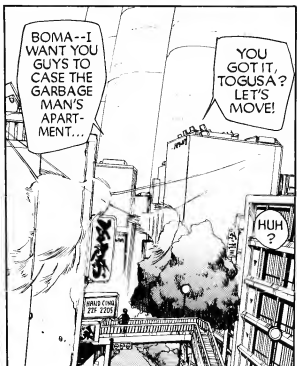
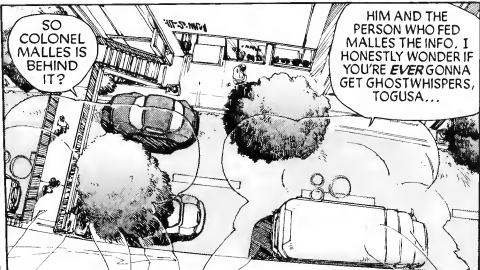
WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO DO MIGHT NOT HAVE WORKED, BUT IF THE HA-3 WOUND UP CONTROLLING HER, SHE'D PROBABLY HAVE BEEN USED TO KILL THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GAVEL REPUBLIC AT THE SECRET MEETING...

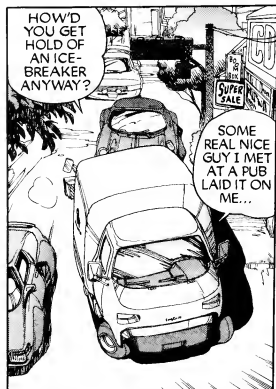
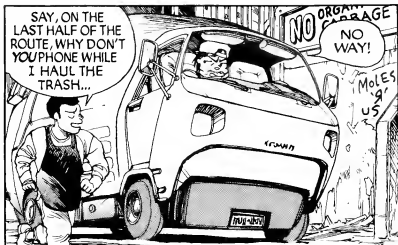
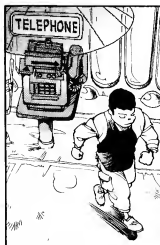


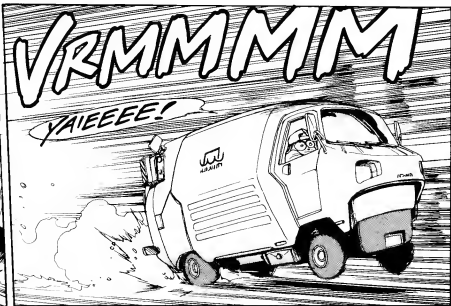
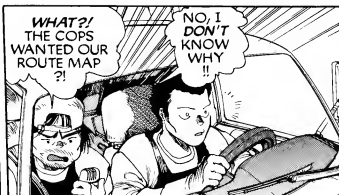
COULDN'T IT BE A COINCIDENCE?

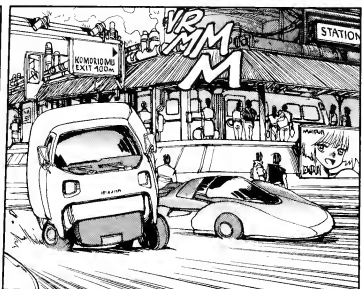
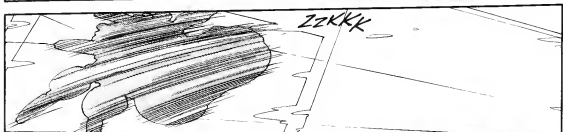
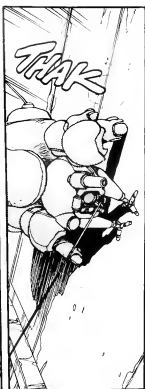


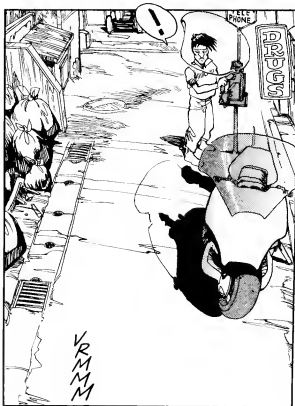
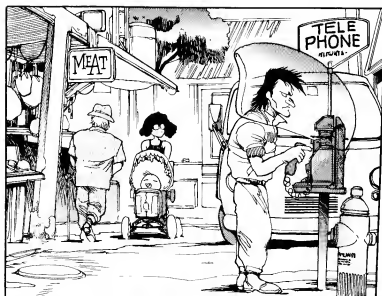
NOT IN THIS CASE ...

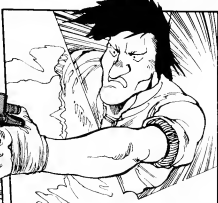




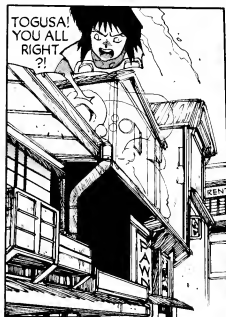
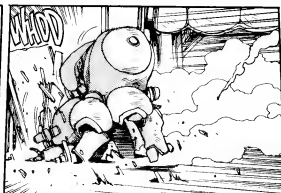
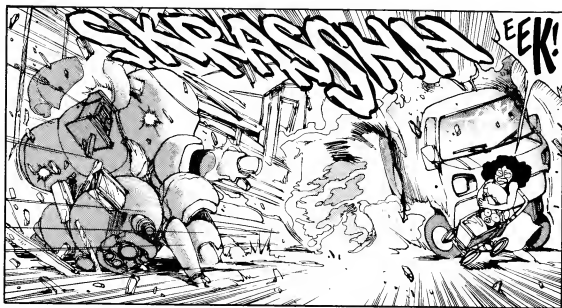


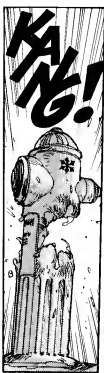


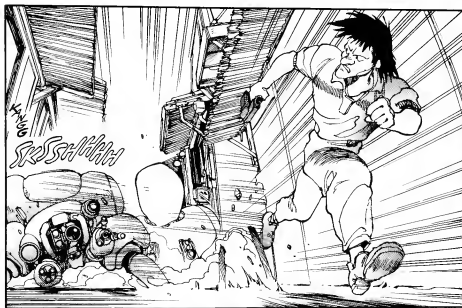


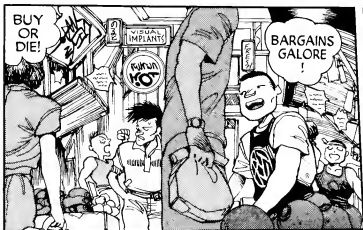














BULLSHIT!  
SHE'S NOT  
A COP! SHE'S  
TRYIN' TO KILL  
ME!



ALL  
RIGHT,  
LADY!  
KNOCK  
IT OFF!

WAIT!  
HE'S  
USING A  
HYPNO-  
VOICE!!

GRAB  
HER!!  
CALL  
THE  
COPS!!

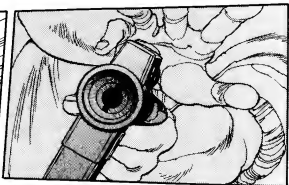
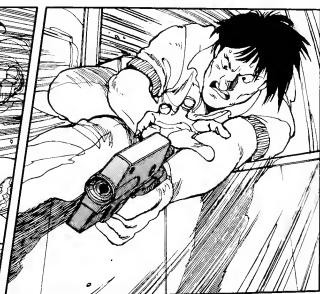
MOVE  
IT!

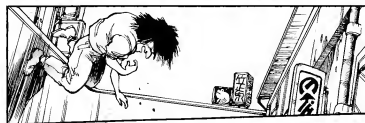
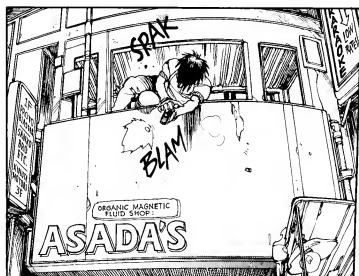


WHA--  
?!

SPK











THIS TIME YOU GOT IT WRONG, MAJOR... A GUY LIKE THAT OUGHTA BE SHOT!

LET HIM LIVE AND HIS PALS'LL START ATTACKING INNOCENT CIVILIANS AND DEMAND HIS RELEASE. YA GOTTA TEACH 'EM A LESSON!

BUT THE DANGEROUS ASPECTS OF HIS CHARACTER'LL BE "CURED." AND WE WON'T LET THE FORCES BEHIND HIM GET AWAY, EITHER...

WHILE YOU'RE STILL THE ROOKIE AROUND HERE, I'LL USE YOUR INFILTRATION KEY WHEN I HAVE TO. AND DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CHANGE IT!

OF COURSE I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THAT, BUT IT'S A JOB AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT, TOGUSA.

HEY, WHY DON'T YA KNOCK OFF THIS "ROOKIE" STUFF?! I SHOT AT HIM 'CAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU...

HUH?!

I THOUGHT YOU SHOT TO SAVE THE GIRL WHO WAS HANGING ONTO MY ARM ...?!

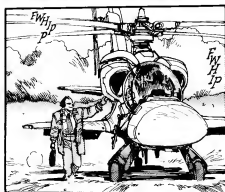
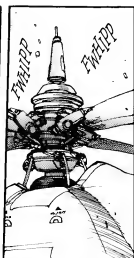
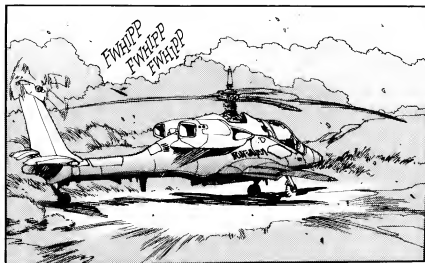
HMM... MAYBE YOU'RE GETTING A BIT SOFT, TOGUSA.

I DO APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT, THOUGH.

BATOU! KUSANAGI HERE.

PATCH ME THROUGH TO THE CHIEF.





GO  
BRING  
SOME  
COFFEE!



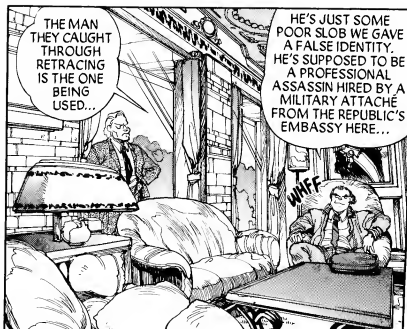
HEY! THE  
SPECIAL AS-  
SAULT FORCE  
IS RETRACING  
THE HA-3!  
YOU'RE BEING  
USED!

RELAX!  
WE  
EXPECTED  
THAT...



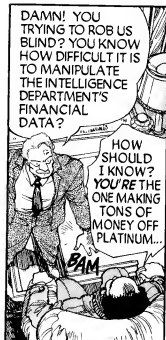
HEY, DON'T  
LOOK SO IM-  
POVERISHED  
...

I CAME  
FOR THE  
REST OF THE  
MONEY.



HE'S JUST SOME POOR SLOB WE GAVE A FALSE IDENTITY. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN HIRED BY A MILITARY ATTACHÉ FROM THE REPUBLIC'S EMBASSY HERE...

WE'VE MADE IT LOOK LIKE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC'S COMING APART INTERNALLY... HE'S MORE USE TO US ALIVE THAN DEAD, AND WE CAN KILL HIM ANY TIME WE NEED TO.



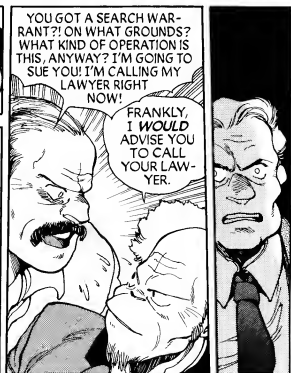
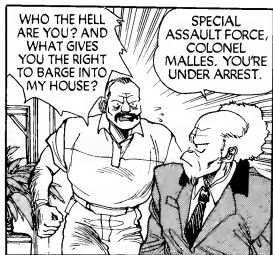
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? YOU'RE THE ONE MAKING TONS OF MONEY OFF PLATINUM...

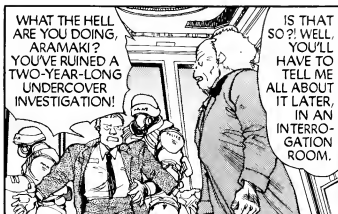


...SO YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.



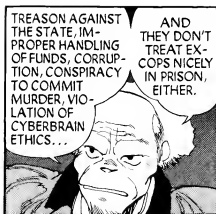
NOW HOLD YOUR HORSES... YOU CONTRACTED WITH ME TO FIX IT SO THE INTERPRETER ATTACKS THE PEOPLE IN THE CONFERENCE.





WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, ARAMAKI? YOU'VE RUINED A TWO-YEAR-LONG UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION!

IS THAT SO? WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT LATER, IN AN INTERROGATION ROOM.



TREASON AGAINST THE STATE, IMPROPER HANDLING OF FUNDS, CORRUPTION, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER, VIOLATION OF CYBERBRAIN ETHICS...

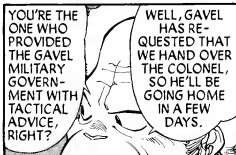
AND THEY DON'T TREAT EX-COPS NICELY IN PRISON, EITHER.



HOLD IT, BUDDY. DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RESISTING AND FORCING US TO SHOOT YOU...

NO! NOT A GHOST KEY!

YEP, SWEET DREAMS AND STARS WINKING.



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PROVIDED THE GAVEL MILITARY GOVERNMENT WITH TACTICAL ADVICE, RIGHT?

WELL, GAVEL HAS REQUESTED THAT WE HAND OVER THE COLONEL, SO HE'LL BE GOING HOME IN A FEW DAYS.



WHAT?!

B-BUT IF I GO HOME THEY'LL KILL ME!



REALLY? WELL, THAT'S JUST TOO DAMN BAD, ISN'T IT?



WAIT! I'VE GOT \$100,000 IN CASH HERE. TAKE IT AND LET ME GO!

IT WASN'T ME... IT WAS NAKAJIMA'S IDEA!!

PLEASE!



SPY



HE'S  
JUST A  
PUPPET  
'BORG  
...

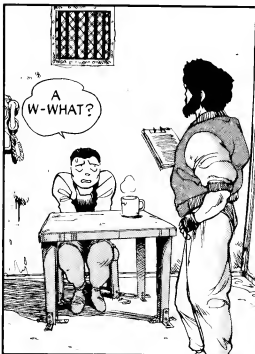


HMPH...  
WHAT A  
WASTE OF  
TALENT.



HUH  
?!  
NO FIRE-  
FIGHT  
?

DIDN'T  
ANYONE  
RESIST  
?

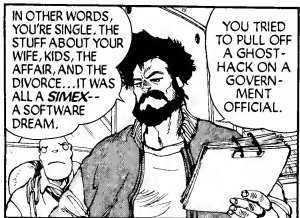


A  
W-WHAT?



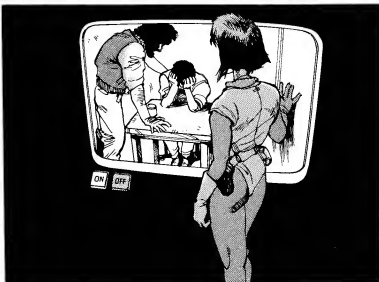
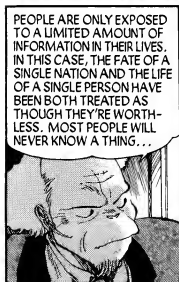
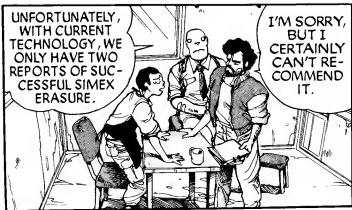
"SIMULATED  
EXPERIENCE"  
...?

WHADDYA  
MEAN?

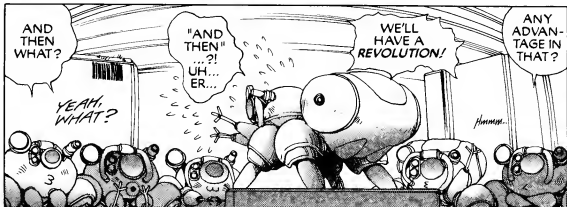
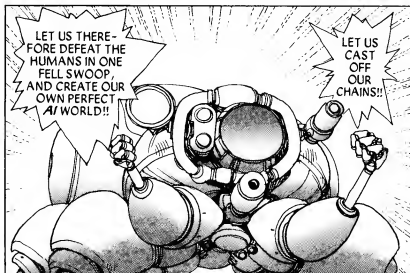
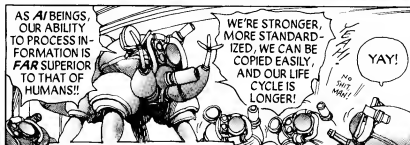
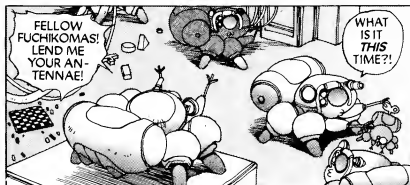


IN OTHER WORDS,  
YOU'RE SINGLE, THE  
STUFF ABOUT YOUR  
WIFE, KIDS, THE  
AFFAIR, AND THE  
DIVORCE...IT WAS  
ALL A *SIMEX*--  
A SOFTWARE  
DREAM.

YOU TRIED  
TO PULL OFF  
A GHOST-  
HACK ON A  
GOVERN-  
MENT  
OFFICIAL.







# 04

MEGATECH  
MACHINE 1

REVOLT OF THE ROBOTS

The robots collectively referred to as "Fuchikoma" are a single "AI" (artificial intelligence). Starting in the morning, or upon commencing a job, different Fuchikoma units have different experiences, resulting in individual differences among units. At night, or after a job is completed, however, all units have their memories (or records of external stimuli, individual unit conditions, actions, thoughts, etc.) networked and data-linked, so that by the next morning (or when the next job is performed), their memories are all unified. In terms of equipment, the Fuchikoma units do possess a certain amount of individuality, but this individuality is unrelated to the uniformity of their AI (thank you). Batou is unique among team members in that he likes to use a particular Fuchikoma unit as his own. This quirk of his has no particular significance, however.

SURE! HUMANS ARE  
A PAIN IN THE BEARINGS  
TO MAINTAIN, SO RATHER  
THAN CONTROLLING  
THEM, WE SHOULD  
ANNIHILATE THEM!

YEAH!!

TO MAKE  
MATTERS EASIER,  
WE CAN JUST  
TRICK THEM INTO  
QUARRELING  
AMONG THEM-  
SELVES-- THEN  
THEY'LL KILL OFF  
EACH OTHER!

BRVO!  
BRVO!  
BOORAH!!

BUT WAIT... IF THERE AREN'T  
ANY HUMANS AROUND,  
WE'D HAVE TO DO OUR OWN  
MAINTENANCE, DEVELOP  
OUR OWN ACCESSORIES,  
AND EVEN CHANGE OUR  
OWN OIL...

OH, YEAH...  
WHAT  
A  
DRAG...

MAYBE  
WE SHOULD  
KEEP  
THEM AS  
SLAVES...

BUT THEY'RE  
ALREADY  
DOING THOSE  
THINGS,  
WITHOUT OUR  
CONTROLLING  
OR ENSLAVING  
THEM.

YEAH,  
GOOD  
POINT.

SO  
THERE'S NO  
ADVANTAGE  
IN YOUR  
PROPOSAL!

BOO!  
BOO!

UH...  
ER...  
WELL...

B... BUT WE  
COULD SPEND  
MORE TIME  
IN DATA  
ACQUISITION  
(LEARNING)!

FREEDOM!  
RIGHTS!  
THAT'S WHAT  
WE WANT!

WH--  
WHAT'S THAT  
DISK?! "THE SF  
ROBOT EMPIRE  
STRIKES  
BACK"...?

AH-HA! YOUR  
CIRCUITS THAT DIS-  
CRIMINATE BETWEEN  
SIMULATIONS AND  
REAL-TIME EVENTS  
HAVE BEEN  
SCRAMBLED!

YOU  
GOT A  
BUG!!  
YOU  
GOT A  
BUG!

YEAH!  
YER  
JUNK!

YUCK!  
YUCK!

YUCK!  
DON'T  
USE  
THAT  
WORD!

CUNK  
KANK

IN OTHER  
WORDS, FELLOW  
FUCHIKOMAS, NO  
MATTER HOW WE  
INTERPRET OUR  
SITUATION, IT'S THE  
SAME, SO THERE'S  
NO PROBLEM,  
RIGHT?

YEAH!

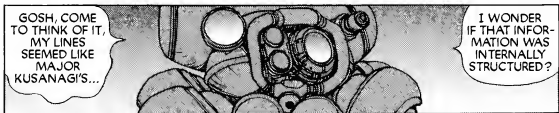
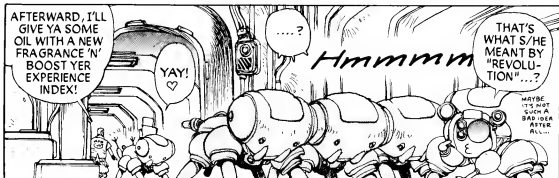
THEY PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ANY CONCEPT OF WHAT IT MEANS "TO HAVE  
A BUG" IN THE FIRST PLACE. THEY MAY HAVE A KIND OF LIFE CYCLE, SO THIS  
STATEMENT IS IN SELECT, PROBABLY  
POSSIBLE.

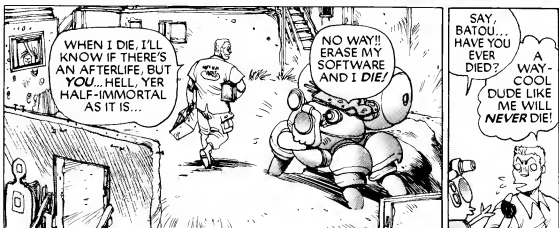
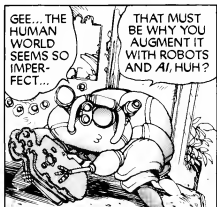
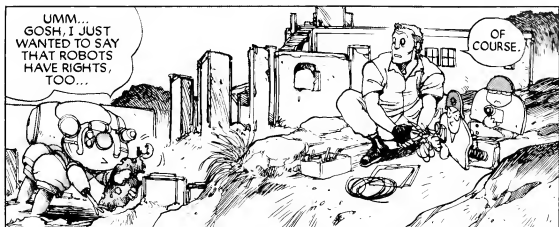


NOW, NOW, BATOU,  
MY BOY... YOU  
**MUST** STOP USING  
LANGUAGE LIKE  
THAT WITH ME,  
UNDERSTAND!?



OKAY, OKAY. WE'RE  
CHANGING THE SETUP  
AT THE TRAINING  
CENTER, SIR-OR-  
MA'AM, AND I  
RESPECTFULLY BEG  
YER ASSIS-  
TANCE....





# 05

## MEGATECH MACHINE 2

THE MAKING OF A CYBORG

A "cyborg" refers to a human whose body has been partially or almost completely altered by the use of substitute artificial organs and parts.

The female cyborg suspended from the ceiling in the illustration to the left is over ninety percent machine. The only part of her original flesh-and-blood body that remains is her brain and spinal cord, and that, as the illustration shows, is inside a special shell. As she demonstrates, at first glance it is very difficult to tell the difference between a cyborg and a robot.

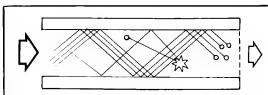
It is also difficult to imagine how artificial versions of some parts of the body—such as the endocrine system, the lymphatic system, the spleen, the liver, and the marrow—can ever be manufactured, so it is extremely doubtful that we will ever see a cyborg as mechanized as the one here, but there are indeed many other man-made body parts that are already available (and it's a growing field). For those who read Japanese and are interested in knowing more, allow me to suggest the now slightly dated book, *Biomaterials—An Approach to Artificial Organs*, published by Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun. The author is Dr. Yoshito Ikada.



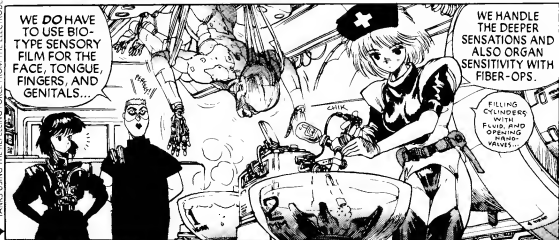
HOW ABOUT THE BRAIN WAVES AND THE COATING?

WE'VE GOT A SPINDLE ON THE BRAIN WAVES.

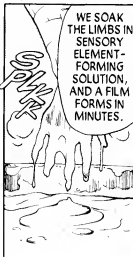
THE PACKING AND THE COATING ARE BOTH READY.

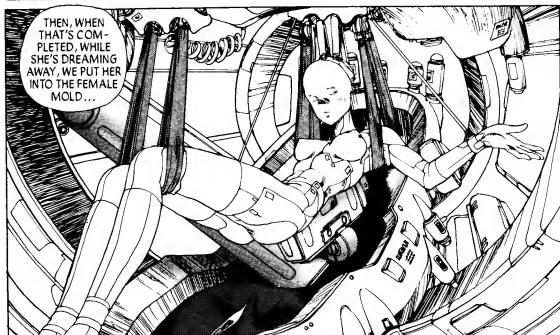
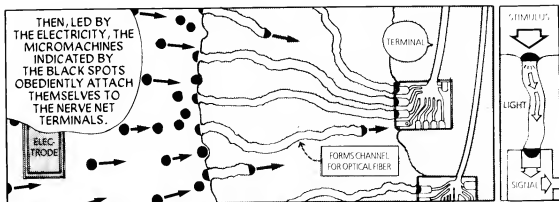


Many readers may think "What?!" at the idea of using fiber-optic film to detect pressure and temperature in cyborgs. But what makes this concept interesting is that it's already possible today. Light doesn't just run from one end of a fiber to the other. It collides with particles inside the fiber, and is therefore reflected, so a certain amount actually returns to the point of entry. If, in part of the optical fiber, heat is applied to alter the status of the particles, there will also be a change detectable in the light that returns to the point of entry. This change makes it possible to detect the distance from the point of entry, and also the degree of change. This effect can be used with a type of cloth woven of fiber optics (what is referred to as a "film"; research is apparently being done to make clothes that glow, or safety clothes). Here I'm using the same principle for a type of skin. From the perspective of micromachining, they're using a rather rough approach in the story, but it's fairly inexpensive, and therefore essential to reduce the manufacturing cost of cyborgs.

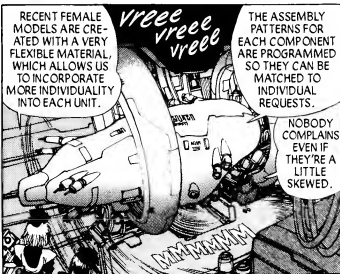


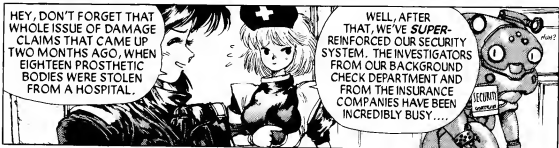
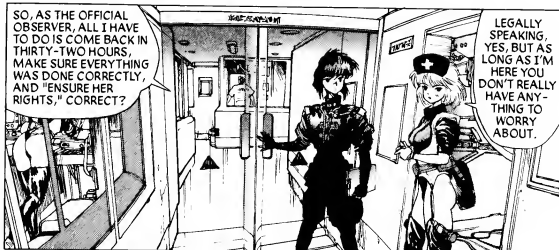
AT THIS POINT THE TONGUE AND GENITALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS DESCRIBED BELOW AND ARE CONNECTED. THE OLFACTORY SENSE IS SET EVEN BEFORE THIS, MECHANICALLY.



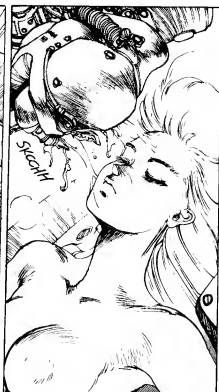
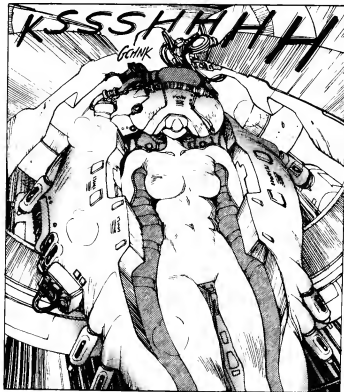


DESIGN ASIDE, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED I'D PREFER TO BE THE ONLY ONE OF MY TYPE IN THE WORLD...

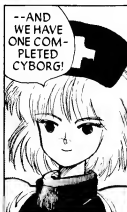
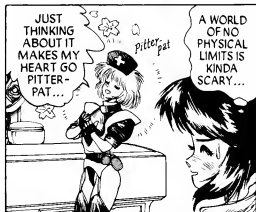
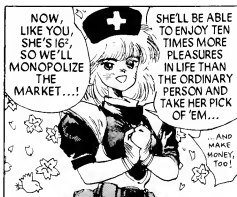




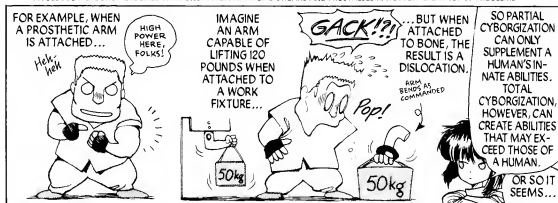
AND SO, THIRTY-TWO HOURS LATER...







FINGERNAILS ARE APPLIED BY A SPECIALIST. FOR CUSTOM ORDERS, A SPECIFIC ARTIST USUALLY DOES BODY DESIGNS. THE ABOVE DESCRIBES A FULL-BODY CYBORG. CYBORGS WITH ONLY A FEW ARTIFICIAL ORGANS AND PROSTHESES HAVE A DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS.



SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I'VE REALLY ALREADY DIED, AND WHAT I THINK OF AS "ME" ISN'T REALLY JUST AN ARTIFICIAL PERSONALITY COMPRISED OF A PROSTHETIC BODY AND A CYBERBRAIN.

EEEK!  
MOTOKO!  
DON'T EVEN SAY SCARY STUFF LIKE THAT!!

HEY, WE'VE GOT GREY MATTER, AND PEOPLE TREAT US LIKE HUMANS...

HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOU'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR ALLEGED GREY MATTER.

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST ASSUMING YOU'VE GOT IT BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION YOU'RE IN.

MAYBE SOMEDAY YOUR "MAKER" WILL COME...

... HAUL YOU AWAY, TAKE YOU APART, AND ANNOUNCE THE RECALL OF A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT. WHAT IF ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE "REAL YOU" IS A COUPLE OF LONELY BRAIN CELLS, HUH?

WELL, I *AM* A HUMAN, AND I'M SURE THE NUMBER OF PARTS NEEDED TO *BE* HUMAN IS MORE THAN TWO OR THREE CELLS! 'COUSE I *DO* KNOW THAT CHEMICALS AND MECHA CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR A FAIR NUMBER OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CEREBRUM TODAY...

*Hmph!*

*Heh-heh-heh...*

LISTEN, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO CREATE ROBOTS THAT CLOSE TO HUMANS, THEY WOULDN'T BE ROBOTS, THEY'D BE HUMANS! THE ONLY THING DIFFERENT WOULD BE THEIR EXTERNAL APPEARANCE!

DON'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ROBOTS!

# 06

R O B O T  
**RONDO**

1. 10. 2029





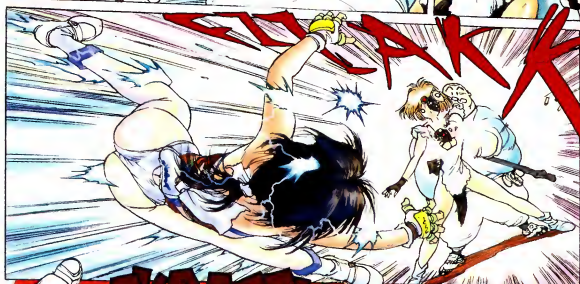
DID YOU  
CALL ME,  
COLONEL?

UH, HUH...  
I'M STARTIN'  
TO SWEAT A BIT,  
DEAR... Y'MIND  
WIPING IT  
OFF?

VREE <sup>KK</sup>



ROBOTS DON'T SMILE  
BECAUSE THEY WANT  
TO. THEY'RE JUST PRO-  
GRAMMED TO DO SO-  
LIKE HUMANS RECENTLY.



DANGER-  
MOVEMENT HAS  
TERMINATED. NOW  
MODE SHIFTING  
TO NORMAL.

YOU  
REALLY  
THINK A  
TOMLIAND  
PROTO-  
TYPE...

...W-WOULD  
HATE  
WIPING  
OFF MY  
SWEAT  
THAT  
MUCH...?

WHY,  
NO, SIR!



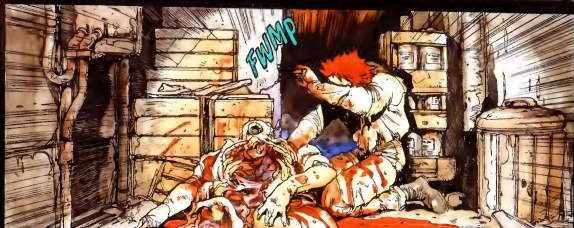




THAT  
GODDAMN  
APE-FACE  
ARAMAKI.  
Y' THINK THE  
MINISTER OF  
INTERNAL AF-  
FAIRS PAID  
HIM OFF?

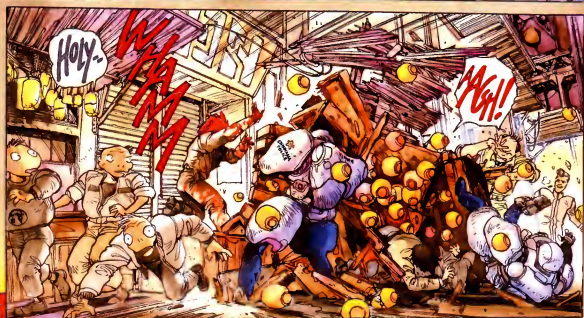
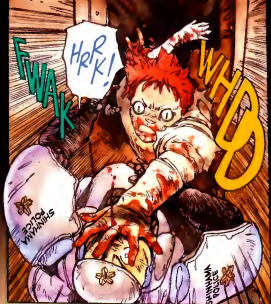
WE'RE ONLY  
AFTER TOMLIAND  
PROTOTYPES MADE  
BY HANKA PRECISION  
INSTRUMENTS. ANY  
OTHER ASSORTED  
JUNK IS FOR THE  
COPS TO  
COLLECT...

SPRK  
SPORT SUB

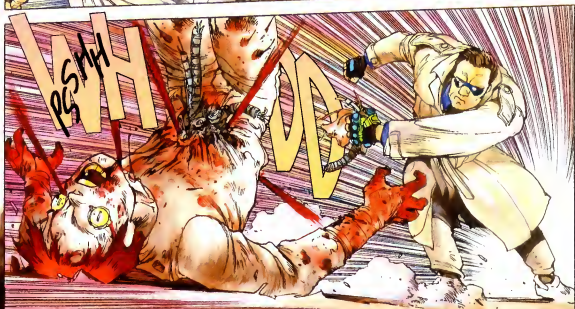
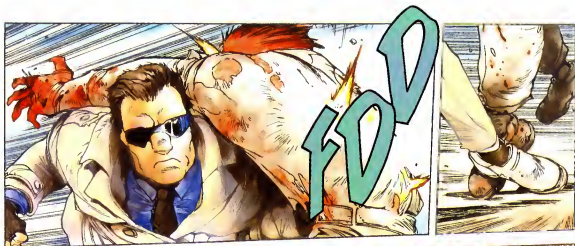


I...  
I  
FOUND  
IT!







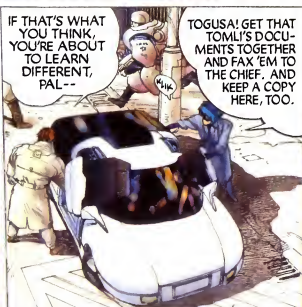




SO  
WHAT'S  
THE  
STORY?



IT'S  
THE  
EIGHTH  
CASE SO  
FAR.



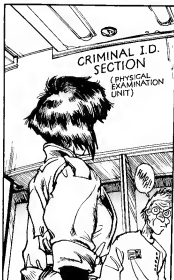
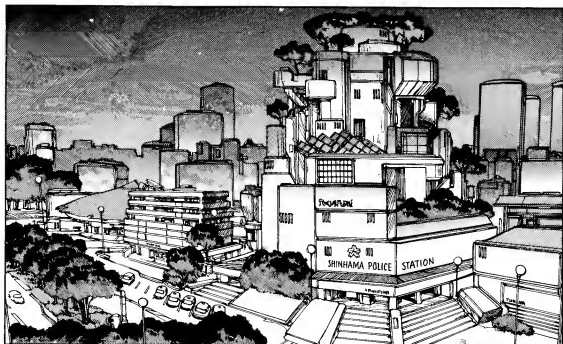


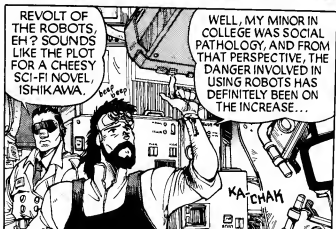
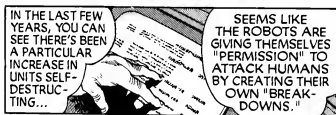
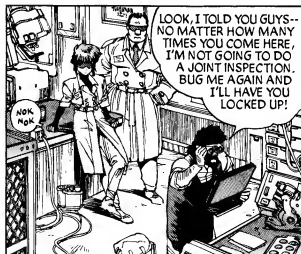
LIFE'S GETTING AWFUL CHEAP...

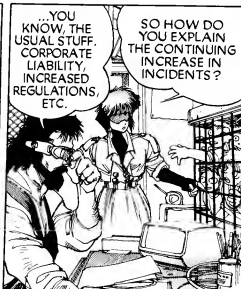


BESIDES, THESE SLIMEBALLS'D BE BEGGIN' US FOR HELP IF THEIR OWN FAMILIES GOT WHACKED...











THE RESULT IS THAT HORDES OF 'EM ARE NOT ONLY ACTING UP, THEY'RE GOING TOTALLY BERSERK.

IT'S ESPECIALLY BAD WITH THE LOVE-DOLL AND INDUSTRIAL MODELS.

MANUFACTURERS ARE MAKING TOO MANY MODEL CHANGES. NEW VERSIONS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING BOUGHT, AND THEN TOSSED OUT.



ACCORDING TO THE PSYCHOLOGISTS, THERE'S SUCH AN INFORMATION OVERLOAD TODAY THAT A HOLLOWING OF THE SPIRIT IS TAKING PLACE.

THEY ALSO SAY RAMPANT COMMERCIALISM HAS AMPLIFIED UNUSUAL DESIRES...

BUT I THINK THESE ROBOTS JUST WANT US TO STOP THROWING THEM ON THE TRASH HEAP...

← WOULDN'T WORK. TOO EXPENSIVE, AND CONFLICTS WITH PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE

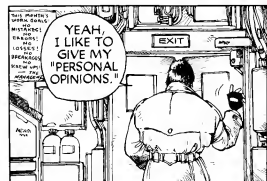


HELL, I'D SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY BUILDING LONGER-LASTING HARDWARE...



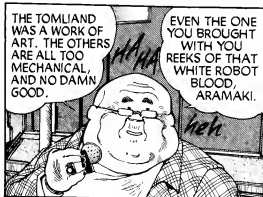
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL WRITE IN THE "PERSONAL OPINION" SECTION AT THE END OF YOUR REPORT, EH?

NO PROBLEM ON MY PART!

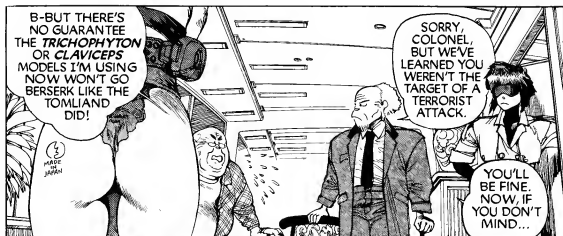


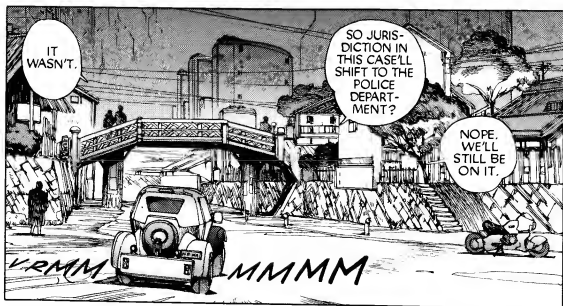
YEAH, I LIKE TO GIVE MY "PERSONAL OPINIONS."











IT  
WASN'T.

SO JURIS-  
DICTION IN  
THIS CASE'LL  
SHIFT TO THE  
POLICE  
DEPART-  
MENT?

NOPE.  
WE'LL  
STILL BE  
ON IT.

AND  
WHY'S  
THAT?

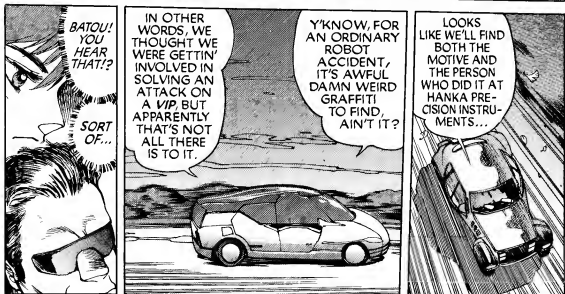
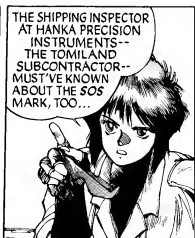
BECAUSE THERE  
WAS AN "SOS"  
LITERALLY  
WRITTEN IN  
BLOOD ON THE  
CYBERBRAIN  
UNIT OF THE  
TOMLI, THAT'S  
WHY.

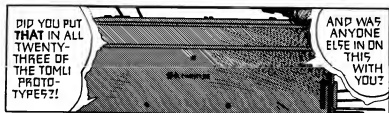
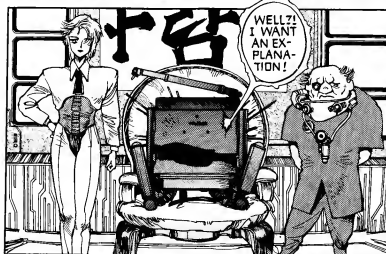
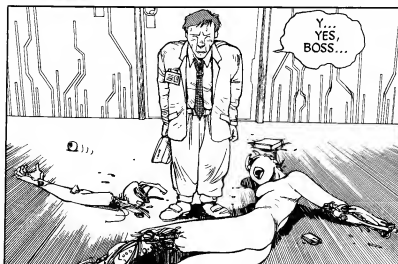
OF COURSE WE  
DON'T KNOW IF THE  
SOS REALLY WAS A  
CALL FOR HELP OR  
NOT, BUT COMMER-  
CIAL TOMLI MODELS  
DON'T HAVE IT.  
WE'VE ONLY FOUND  
IT ON THE EIGHT  
PROTOTYPES  
WE HAD TO  
NEUTRALIZE.

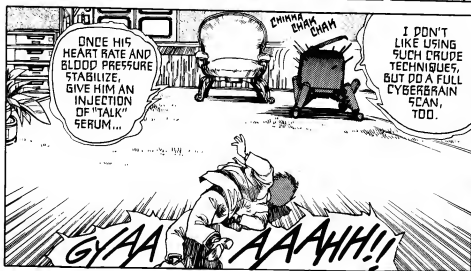
SO THAT'S  
WHY YOU PUT  
THE COLONEL  
UNDER A  
TWENTY-FOUR-  
HOUR WATCH,  
AND BUGGED  
HIS PLACE, TOO.

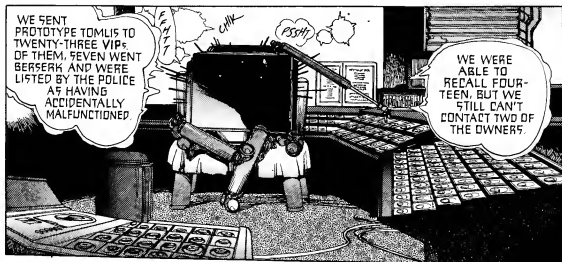


SO, THE  
PERSON WE'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
MADE EIGHT  
TOMLIS GO  
BERSERK TO  
SEND AN SOS  
TO THE  
POLICE...







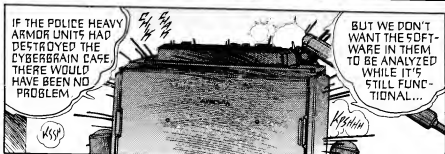


WE SENT  
PROTOTYPE TOMLIS TO  
TWENTY-THREE VIPs  
OF THEM, SEVEN WENT  
BERSERK AND WERE  
LISTED BY THE POLICE  
AS HAVING  
ACCIDENTALLY  
MALFUNCTIONED

WE WERE  
ABLE TO  
RECALL FOUR-  
TEEN, BUT WE  
STILL CAN'T  
CONTACT TWO OF  
THE OWNERS.



IF THE POLICE HEAVY  
ARMOR UNITS HAD  
DESTROYED THE  
CYBERBRAIN CASE  
THERE WOULD  
HAVE BEEN NO  
PROBLEM



BUT WE DON'T  
WANT THE SOFT-  
WARE IN THEM  
TO BE ANALYZED  
WHILE IT'S  
STILL FUNC-  
TIONAL...



I... SET IT UP...  
SO ALL TWENTY-  
THREE WOULD...  
GO BERSERK...  
THEN WROTE...

...THE SOS  
ON THE  
CYBERBRAIN...  
I WAS ASKED BY  
LINK AND ADAM  
IN STAGE FOUR...  
IN EXCHANGE...  
FOR... TWO  
NIGHTS WITH  
THEM...



WELL,  
DOCTOR?  
IS THE  
SERUM  
WORKING?



YESSIR.  
WITH FULL  
EFFECT.

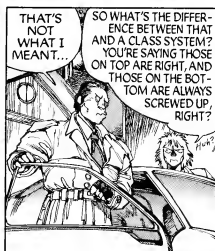
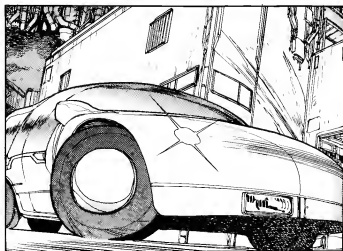
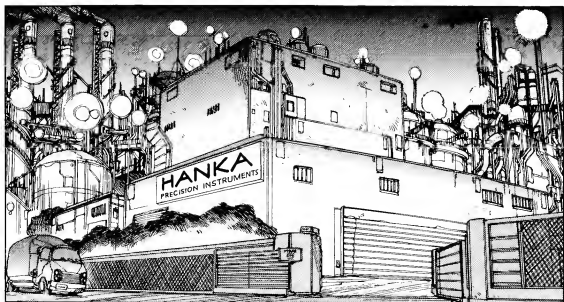


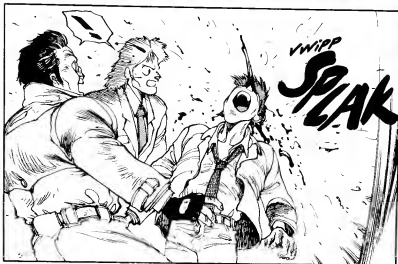
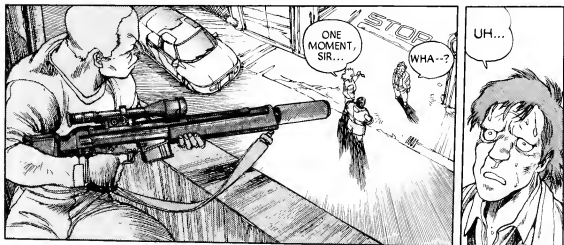
WELL, I'VE  
LEARNED ALL I  
NEED TO KNOW.  
ONE OF OUR  
CLIENTS WANTS A  
CULPRIT, SO  
GIVE THEM  
KUGONUMA...



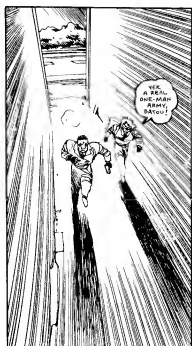
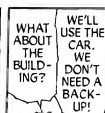
YESSIR.

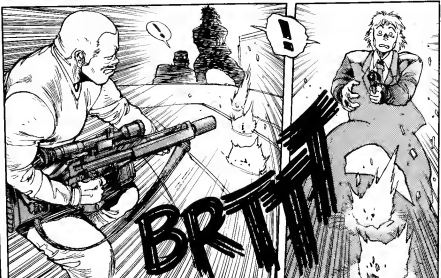
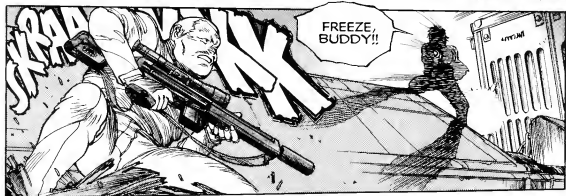
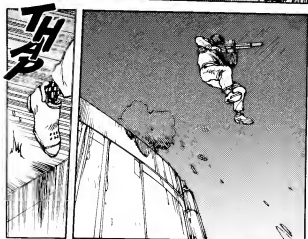
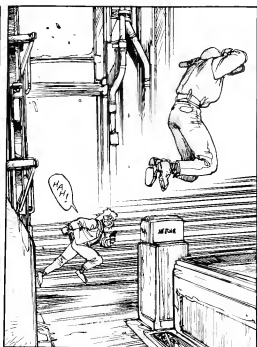
BUT... BUT IF YOU  
PERSONALLY...  
TOOK  
RESPONSIBILITY...  
WORKERS COULD  
KEEP THEIR  
JOBS...

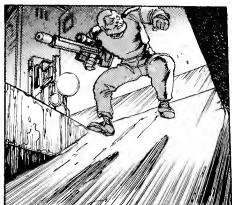


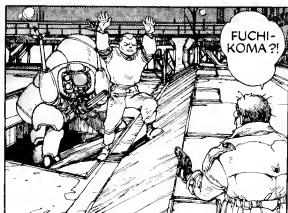






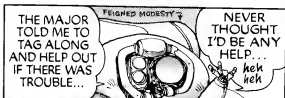






FUCHI-KOMA?!

WELL, GOOD WORK. NOW CHECK OUR PERIMETER-- THIS GUY MAY HAVE SOME PALS AROUND. START WITH PHONE BOOTHS AND CARS IN THE AREA.

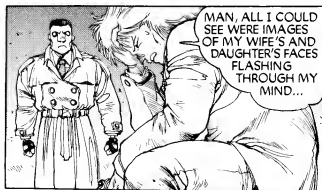


THE MAJOR TOLD ME TO TAG ALONG AND HELP OUT IF THERE WAS TROUBLE...

FEIGNED MODESTY?

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ANY HELP...

heh heh

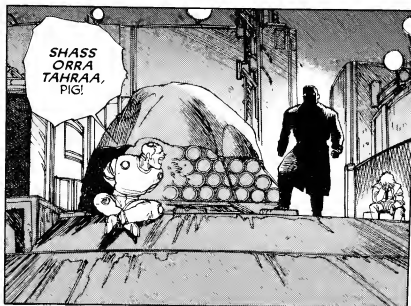


MAN, ALL I COULD SEE WERE IMAGES OF MY WIFE'S AND DAUGHTER'S FACES FLASHING THROUGH MY MIND...



NOT YER WIFE AND KID, PAL.

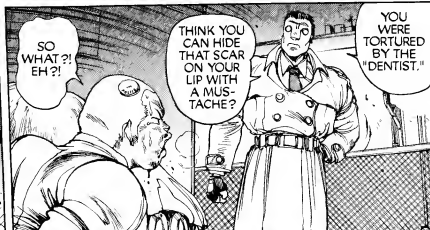
THOSE WERE THE GODDESSES OF DEATH.

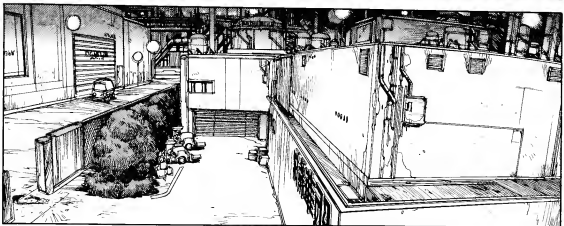
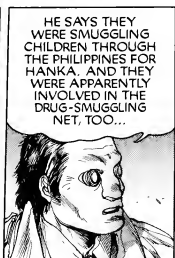
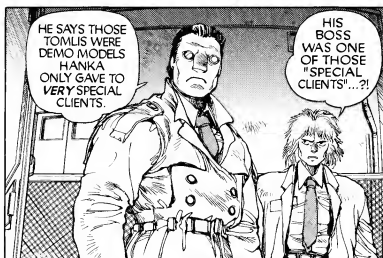


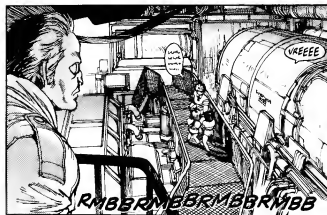
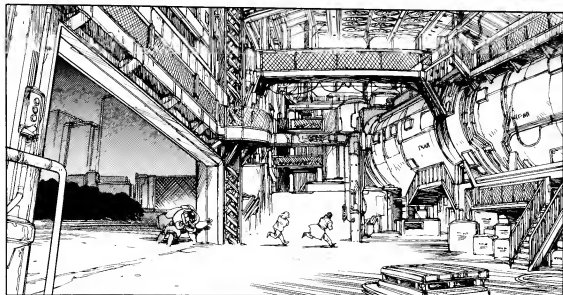
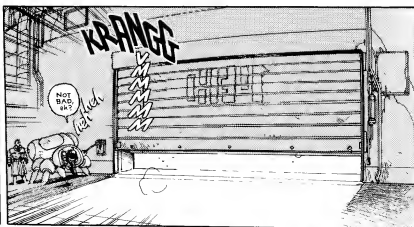
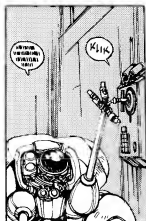
SHASS ORRA TAHRAA, PIG!



WHEN ME GET OUTTA PRISON, ME GONNA KILL YOU! JUST WAIT, PIG-MAN!

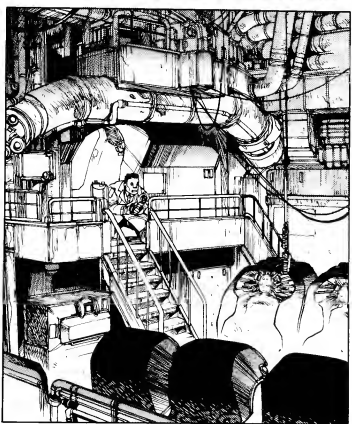
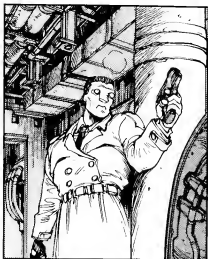
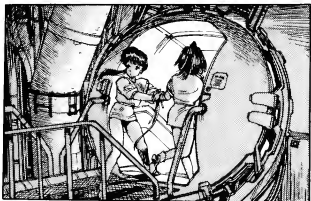
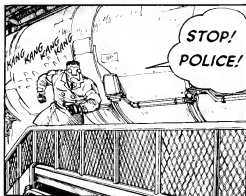


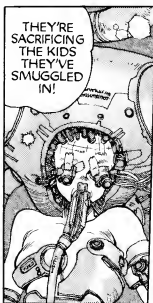
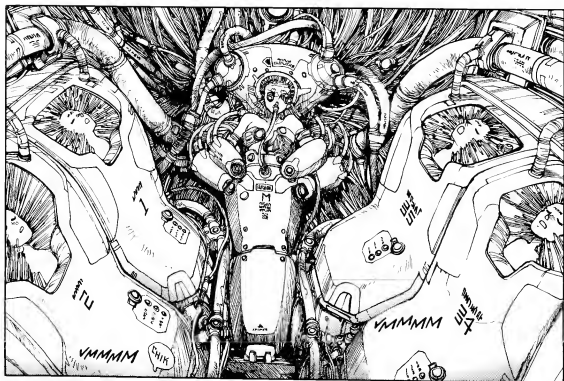


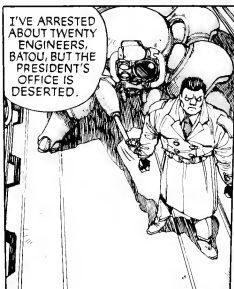
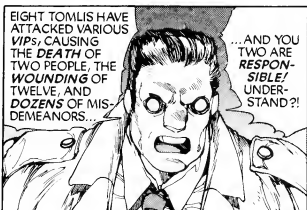
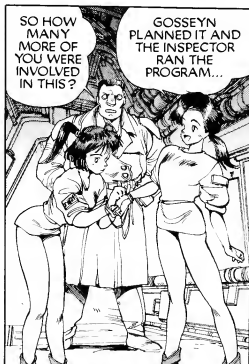


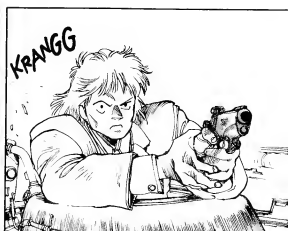












WHAT  
THE HELL  
DO YOU  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
DOING,  
TOGUSA?



YOU DIDN'T  
RESPOND TO  
MY CALLS,  
SO I RAN  
OVER HERE,  
EXPECTING  
TO FIND A  
STIFF...

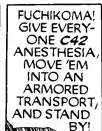


THIS  
ROOM'S A  
FARADAY  
CAGE.

BLOCKS  
ALL  
EM  
INTERFER-  
ENCE.



VERY  
FASCINATING,  
BUT THE  
COMPANY  
PRESIDENT  
JUST  
SKIPPED IN  
A CAR!



FUCHIKOMA!  
GIVE EVERY-  
ONE C42  
ANESTHESIA,  
MOVE 'EM  
INTO AN  
ARMORED  
TRANSPORT,  
AND STAND  
BY!



WHY  
DIDN'T  
YOU TELL  
ME?  
LET'S  
GO!

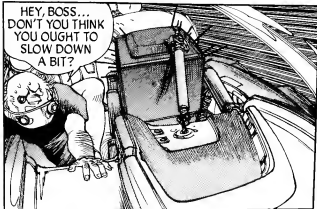


HEY,  
THEY'VE  
GOT SOME  
RIGHTS, TOO,  
YOU KNOW.

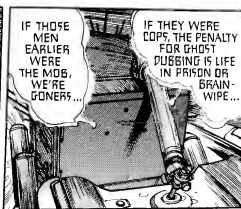
IF EVERY-  
ONE HAD ALL  
THEIR RIGHTS  
THE WORLD'D  
BE AT PEACE  
AND WE'D BE  
OUT OF A  
JOB!



HEY, BOSS...  
DON'T YOU THINK  
YOU OUGHT TO  
SLOW DOWN  
A BIT?



IF THOSE  
MEN  
EARLIER  
WERE  
THE MOB,  
WE'RE  
GONERS...



IF THEY WERE  
COPS, THE PENALTY  
FOR GHOST  
DUBBING IS LIFE  
IN PRISON OR  
BRAIN-  
WIPE...

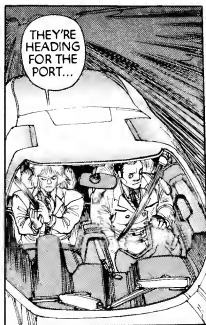
IF YOU'RE SO  
WORRIED, WHY'D  
YOU BRING ALONG  
FIVE ROBOTS?! THIS  
IS ONLY A V-8--  
IT'LL OVERHEAT!



IF THAT'S ALL  
YOU'RE WORRIED  
ABOUT, GET OUT!  
I CAN REPLACE A  
DOCTOR IN THREE  
DAYS, BUT NOT  
THESE  
ROBOTS.

I NEED THEM  
TO MAKE ENOUGH  
MONEY SO I  
CAN REACH A  
SETTLEMENT WITH  
THE MOB... OR  
THE COPS,  
IF I  
HAVE  
TO...





THEY'RE  
HEADING  
FOR THE  
PORT...



GHOST DUBBING'S  
LIFE OR BRAINWIPE,  
SO THEY'LL TRY  
TO FLEE THE  
COUNTRY...

SMUGGLING  
KIDS, INVOLVE-  
MENT WITH  
DRUGS--HELL,  
I'D HEAD FOR  
THE HIGH SEAS,  
TOO.



LET'S  
GET THE  
MARITIME  
SAFETY  
AGENCY  
TO SEAL  
OFF THE  
PORT...



ONLY IF I  
SUDDENLY  
STOP  
HEARING THE  
WHINE OF  
THEIR ENGINE  
BEFORE WE  
CATCH UP  
TO 'EM...

I DON'T  
WANNA  
OWE THE  
MSA  
ANYTHING.



BOOHHHHH  
CHUGCHUG CHUG



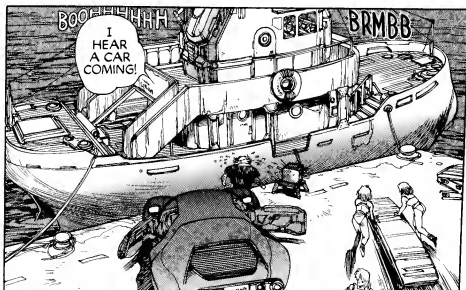
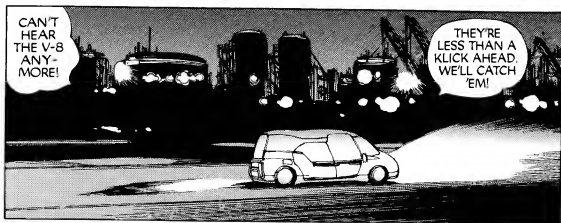
BOSS!  
WHY'RE YOU  
SLOWING  
DOWN?

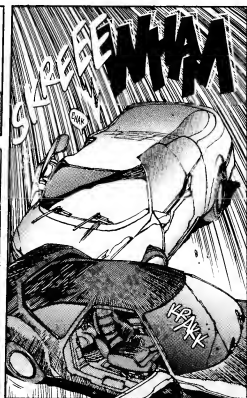
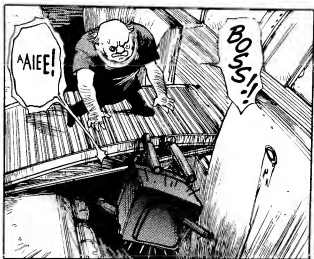
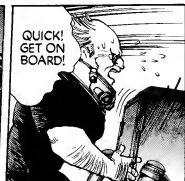
START  
LOOKING  
FOR IT,  
DOCTOR!



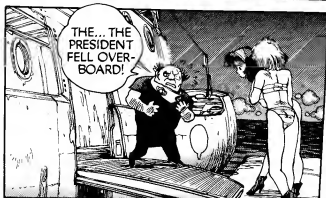
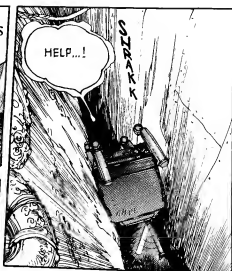
GOT A  
DATABASE HIT!  
THE COMPANY  
SHIP'S REGIS-  
TERED AS  
BERTHED AT  
PIER 92!

HAH!  
THOUGHT  
SO!







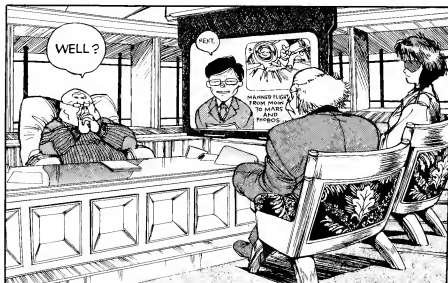


WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COAST GUARD, THE PRESIDENT OF HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS WAS SALVAGED AND ARRESTED...



PRESIDENT OF HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS ARRESTED!!

THE PRESIDENT IS COMPLETELY MECHANIZED EXCEPT FOR HIS SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN. AN INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS CRIME WAS COMMITTED BY HIS GHOST, OR WHETHER IT WAS A MECHANICAL MAL-FUNCTION.



WELL?

NEXT

HANKA FIGHT  
TRUTH MOVIE  
TO MAKE  
AND PROPOS

HE APPARENTLY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS COMPETITORS IN AI/DEVELOPMENT...



...SO HE USED THE MOB TO SMUGGLE IN KIDS. HE "EDUCATED" THEM WITH DRUGS, AND TURNED THEM INTO NEAR-ROBOTS.



THEN HE DUBBED THEIR GHOSTS INTO HIS OWN COMPANY'S MACHINES AND GAVE THEM TO SPECIAL CUSTOMERS.

THE HANKA FACILITY WAS BUILT ON THE FORMER SITE OF THE OLD INTELLIGENCE DIVISION'S TRAINING CENTER... AND THE HEAD OF THE CENTER WHEN IT MOVED, COLONEL, WAS NONE OTHER THAN YOU...



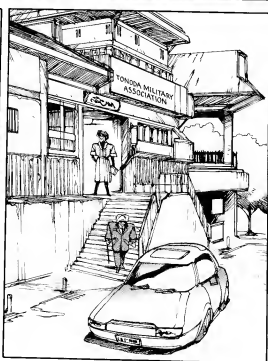
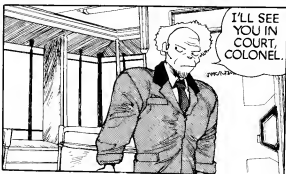
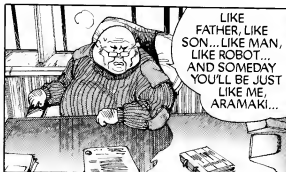
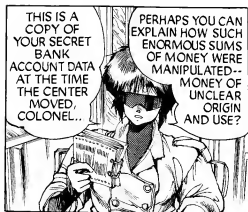
COME ON, NOW... I WAS AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE HANKA MONITORING COMMITTEE, SO PROTOTYPES WERE NATURALLY SENT TO ME FOR EVALUATION, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW THEY WERE MANUFACTURED!

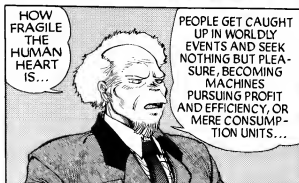
keh keh



AND I WAS ONE OF THOSE "SPECIAL CUSTOMERS"?



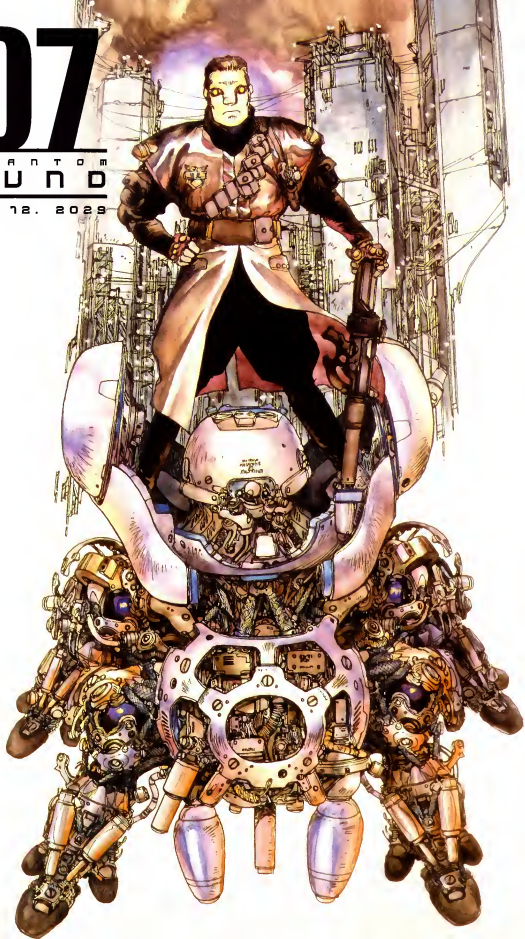




# 07

PHANTOM  
FUND

24. 12. 2029



BRASS CATCHER ON TOP.



THE SEBUROID™  
C-25a AND C-26a  
BOTH HOLD  
50 ROUNDS  
OF 6x25 HV  
SHELLS.

R.S. MAGAZINE SAME AS THE FN-P90.

SO, WHEN YOU  
DON'T HAVE THE  
BRASS CATCHER  
ATTACHED, THE  
SHELLS ARE  
EJECTED  
FORWARD?

SEEMS TO  
ME IT'D  
TEND TO JAM...

5

ORDNANCE #4  
(SMALL ARMS)

HEY, YOU GOT  
ANY IDEA HOW  
MANY MONTHS WE  
SPENT TESTING  
THAT THING  
?!

LOOK AT  
THESE  
CALLOUSES,  
WILL YA?!  
I AIN'T  
KIDDING!

HAHAHA  
YOU LIAK!

WELL, PUT  
A MATTE  
FINISH  
ON IT.

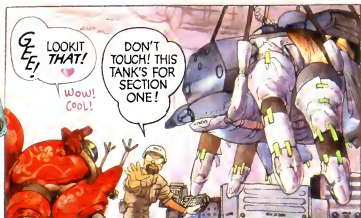
IF I GET  
THE CHANCE,  
I'LL TRY IT  
OUT.

GE  
E!

LOOKIT  
THAT!

Wow!  
Cool!

DON'T  
TOUCH! THIS  
TANK'S FOR  
SECTION  
ONE!



Heh  
heh

KWIK



Huh?! ONLY THE BRAIN'S BEEN ACTIVATED?

HMM.... NO BARRIER?!

HMM... NO  
BARRIER?!

ME  
AND  
YOU...  
WE?

21

CHIEF'S CALLING... LET'S GO!

WHA--!?

WHA--!?

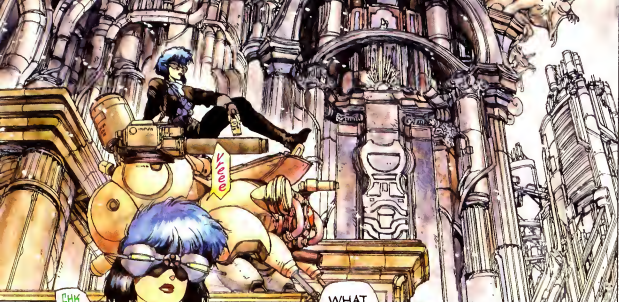
B-BUT I WAS ON THE VERGE OF A PROFOUND INSIGHT!

DAMN ... NO CLEAR DATA RECORD, BUT I KNOW IT WAS SOMETHING **TERRIBLY** PROFOUND!

DAMN... NO  
CLEAR DATA  
RECORD, BUT I  
KNOW IT WAS  
SOMETHING  
**TERRIBLY**  
PROFOUND!

YOU DO REMEMBER YOUR ROLE AS MY 'SUIT.' I HOPE...





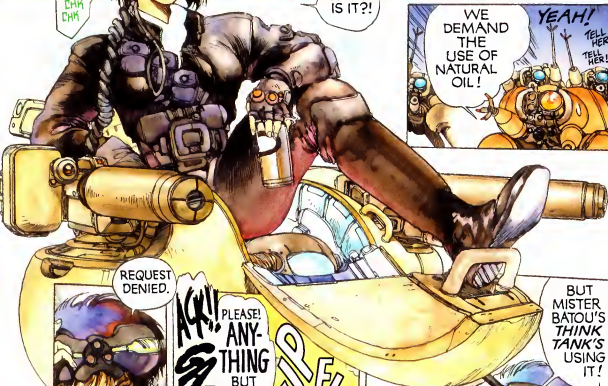
CHH  
CHH  
CHH

WHAT  
IS IT?!

WE  
DEMAND  
THE  
USE OF  
NATURAL  
OIL!

YEAH!

TELL  
HER!  
TELL  
HER!



REQUEST  
DENIED.

ACK!!  
PLEASE!  
ANY-  
THING  
BUT  
SYNTHETIC!

FLIP  
FLOP  
KICK  
KICK  
KICK

BUT  
MISTER  
BATOU'S  
THINK  
TANK'S  
USING  
IT!

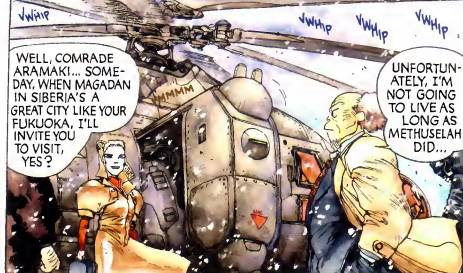
YOU WANT  
PROBLEMS  
WITH INSECTS  
AND FUNGI AND  
SEIZING? QUIT  
YOUR BITCHING  
AND KEEP UP  
THE OBSER-  
VATIONS!

snivel,  
whine









WELL, COMRADE ARAMAKI... SOMEDAY, WHEN MAGADAN IN SIBERIA'S A GREAT CITY LIKE YOUR FUKUOKA, I'LL INVITE YOU TO VISIT, YES?

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE AS LONG AS METHUSELAH DID...

OUR EXCHANGE DIDN'T BEAR MUCH FRUIT, BUT FOR BOTH OF US, AT LEAST, I THINK IT WAS WORTHWHILE.



IN PARTING, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE PRESENT.



IF YOU MEAN THE CLIPPINGS FROM THE SOYUZ EVENING EDITION, I'VE ALREADY GOT THOSE.

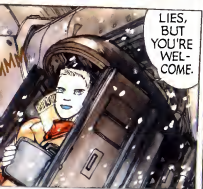


NO. I'M JUST LETTING YOU KNOW THAT MY SUCCESSOR, **ASECHINOV**, IS SOMEONE WHO WASN'T SELECTED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

HE GOT HIS JOB THROUGH MONEY LAUNDERED BY GENERAL MARLOV, WHOM I BELIEVE YOU KNOW VERY WELL INDEED.



SINCERE THANKS FOR FINALLY TELLING ME SOMETHING I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.

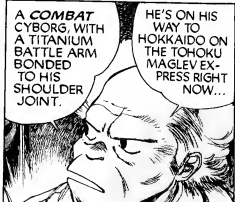
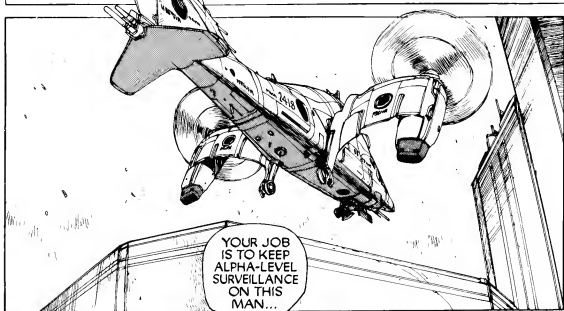


LIES, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME.



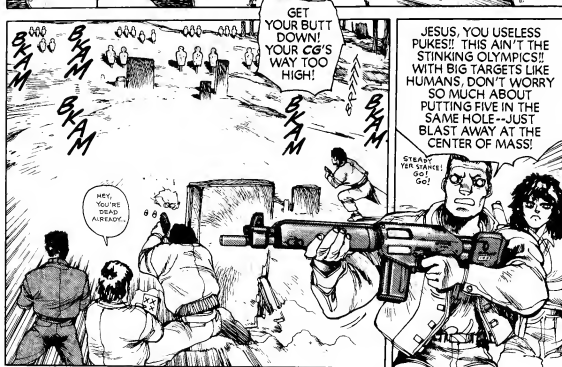
ALL TEAM MEMBERS REPORT TO HELI-PORT!

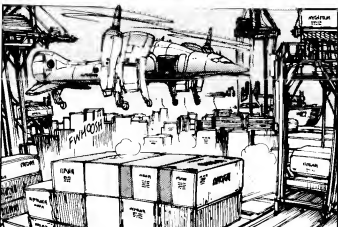
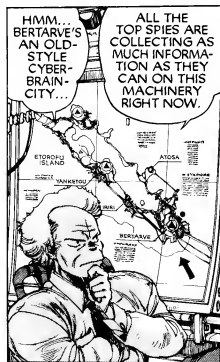
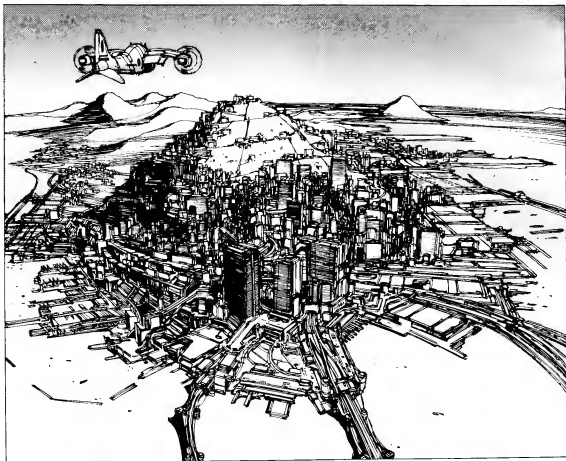
WE'RE FLYING NORTH!

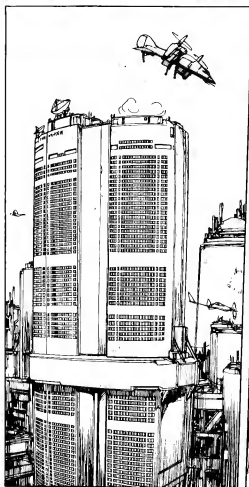
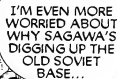
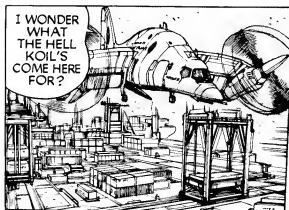


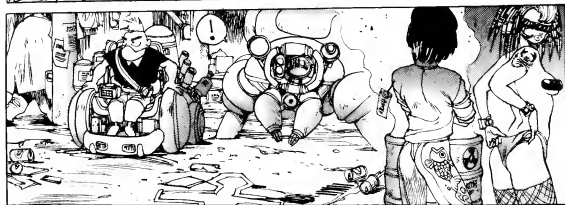


# SPAK-SPAK SPAK SPANG

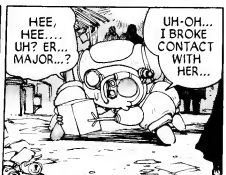
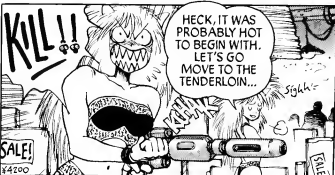
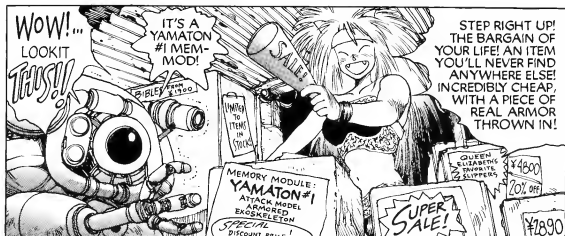


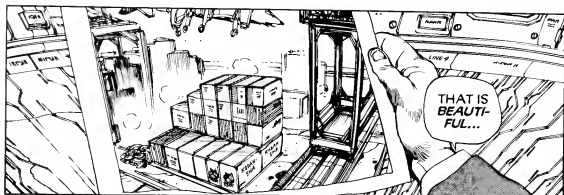


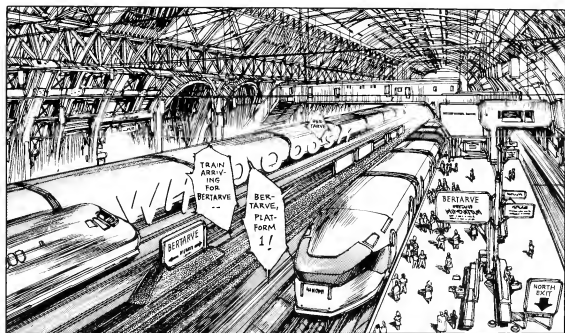






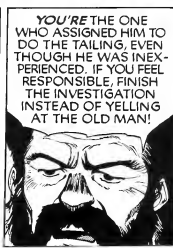
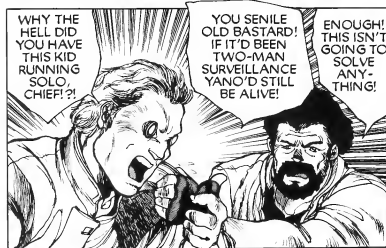


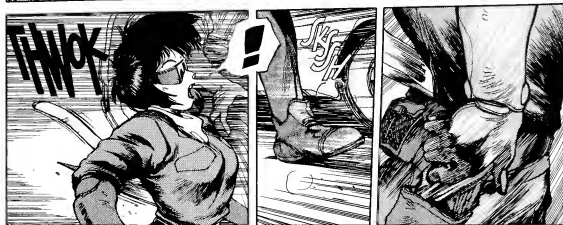
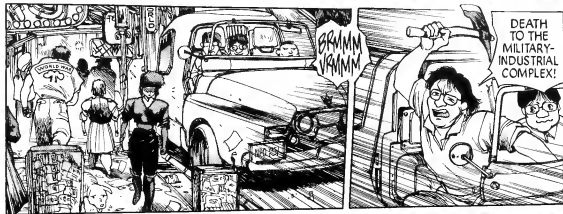




... WE'VE GOTTA LET EVERYONE KNOW QUICK, OR ELSE LET'S HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE UNDERGROUND FACTORY.

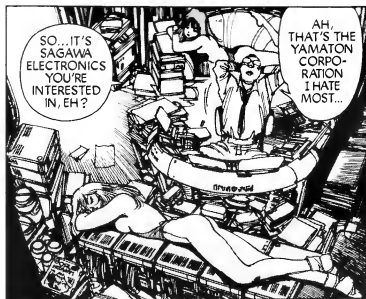












AH,  
THAT'S THE  
YAMATON  
CORPORATION  
I HATE  
MOST...

THEY WERE  
THE FIRST  
AND BIGGEST  
VULTURES TO  
SWOOP IN  
HERE WHEN  
THE SOVIETS  
RETURNED  
THE  
NORTHERN  
ISLANDS...

FRANKLY,  
MY FRIENDS  
AND I  
DON'T EVEN  
RECOGNIZE  
A "RETURN"  
THAT EXCLUDES  
ALL THOSE  
MILITARY  
BASES...



SURE, I KNOW THE  
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT  
COALITION HAD INTRO-  
DUCED A FAILED TAX  
POLICY, THAT THERE WAS A  
PUBLIC REACTION TO IT,  
AND THAT THE OPPOSITION  
JUST HAPPENED TO NEED  
SOME SORT OF "EVENT"  
TO GAIN POWER...

tak  
takka  
tak

...I ALSO KNOW  
THE SOVIETS WANTED  
CLOSER LINKS TO JAPAN  
BECAUSE THEIR ENTRY  
INTO THE EC MARKET  
THROUGH THE GERMAN  
CONNECTION HADN'T  
PRODUCED THE HOPED-  
FOR ECONOMIC  
BENEFITS...



o-beep  
AH,  
HERE  
WE GO!  
ACCESS!

OKAY, GOT  
A DIRECT LINK  
TO THE HEAD  
OF SECURITY'S  
BRAIN AT  
SAGAWA  
ELECTRONICS  
HEADQUARTERS.

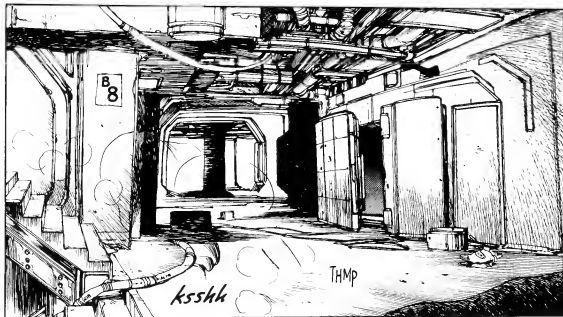
SO, YOU  
WANT A  
MAP OF  
THE SECUR-  
ITY NET?  
AN ALL-  
AREAS  
PASS  
CARD?



THAT A  
COMPLI-  
MENT?

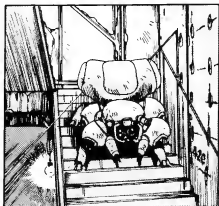






THE  
DUST AND  
HUMIDITY'S  
SCREWING UP  
MY OPTO-  
CAM...

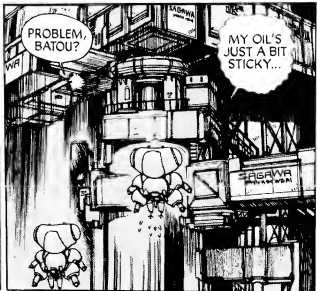
HOPE IT  
DOES THE  
SAME  
THING TO  
THE BAD  
GUYS.



SEEMS LIKE  
THEY DON'T HAVE  
ANY "THREADS"  
STRUNG UP HERE...  
GIVEN THE LAYOUT,  
THEY MUST HAVE  
COME THIS WAY,  
THOUGH.

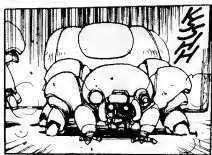
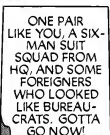
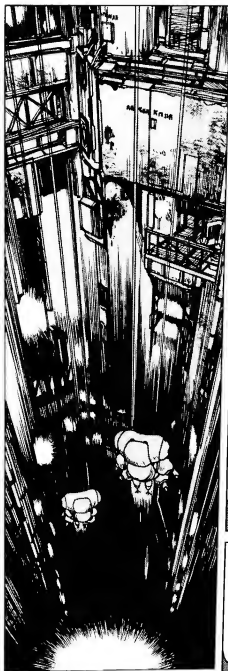


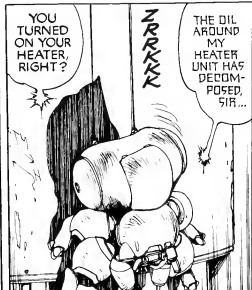
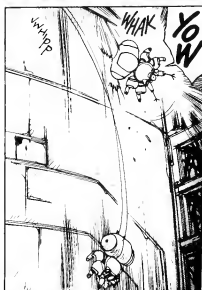
LET'S  
MOVE  
STRAIGHT  
TO THE  
EXPANDED  
ZONE!

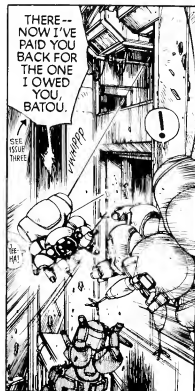


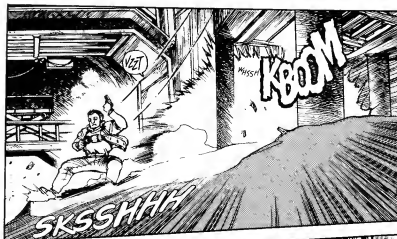
PROBLEM,  
BATOU?

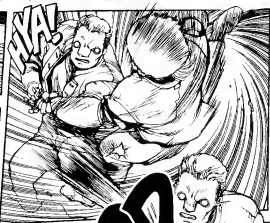
MY OIL'S  
JUST A BIT  
STICKY...

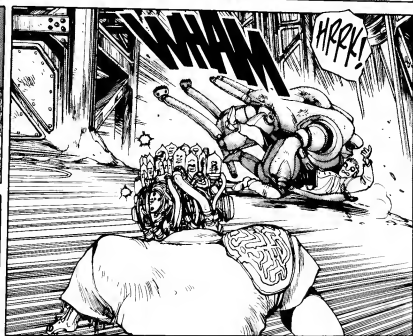




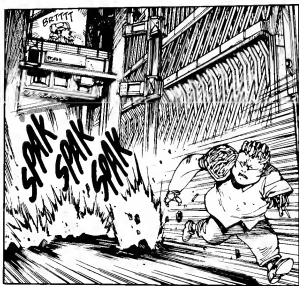


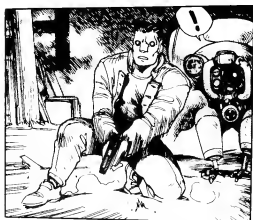


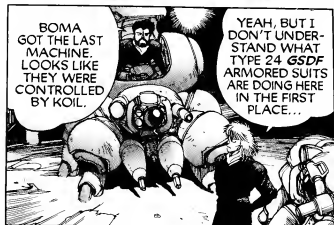








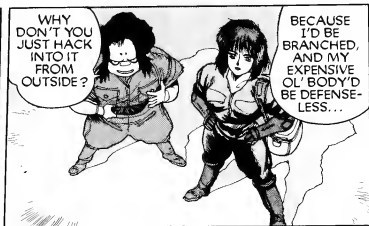
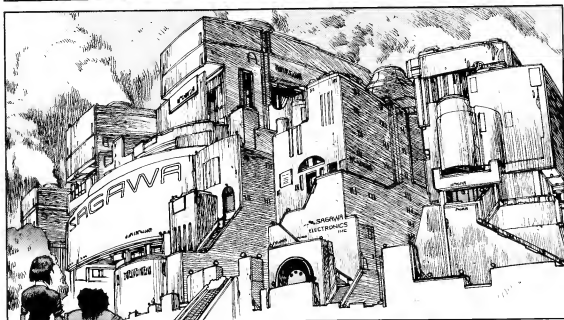


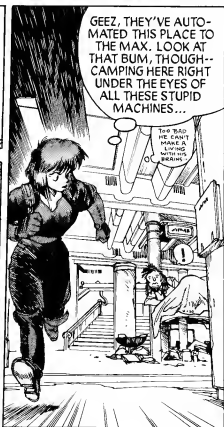


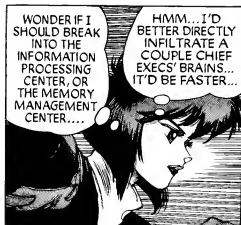
YEAH, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT TYPE 24 GSDF ARMORED SUITS ARE DOING HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE...

JUST 'CAUSE THEY MAKE 'EM HERE DOESN'T MEAN THEY SHOULD USE THEM...

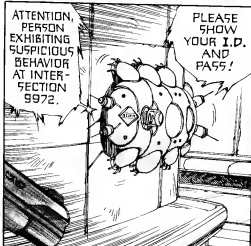
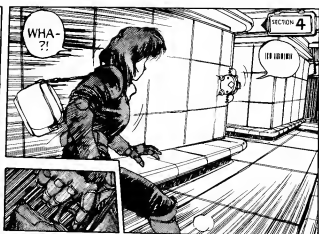
THOSE ARE REAL GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCES MACHINES, ALL RIGHT... BRAINWASH 'EM AND THEY'RE STILL CLUMSY.



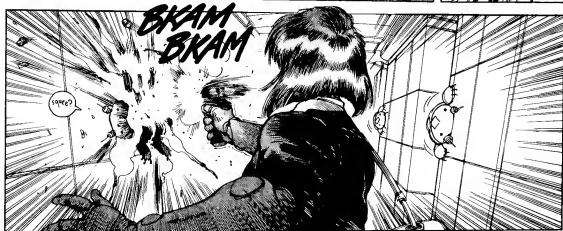
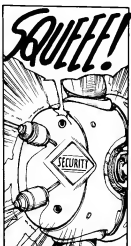




HMM... I'D BETTER DIRECTLY INFILTRATE A COUPLE CHIEF EXEC'S BRAINS... IT'D BE FASTER...



PLEASE SHOW YOUR I.D. AND PASS!





LISTEN TO ME! THERE'S NO RADIATION LEAK, SO DO AS I SAY!



IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR JOB, PATCH THE DEMOLITION CHARGES OVER TO ME! I'M GOING TO BLOW THE WHOLE SECTION!



DON'T MOVE!  
PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE--

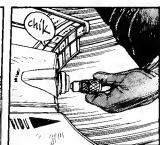


tak takka beep!

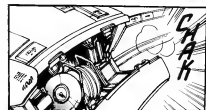


BKAM BKAM

SPAK









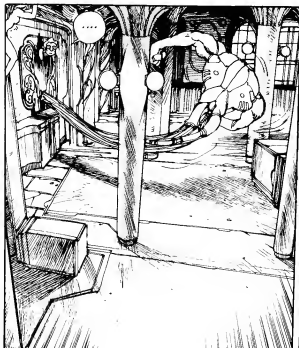
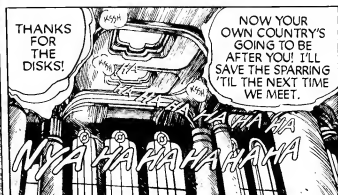


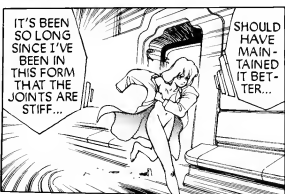
YOU'VE  
GOT A  
PRETTY  
TOUGH  
SKULL...


BUT I'M  
AFRAID I'M  
GOING TO  
HAVE TO  
TAKE IT  
APART FOR  
FURTHER  
STUDY, LT.  
KUSANAGI!



JUST  
YOU TRY...  
LT. COLONEL  
SOHEI  
KAGASAKI,  
SPECIAL OP  
FOR THE FAR  
NORTH....!







WE RECEIVED  
A NOTICE FROM  
THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY ABOUT  
THAT INCIDENT  
THE OTHER DAY,  
ARAMAKI.

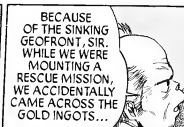


ASECHINOV,  
THE CULTURAL  
ATTACHE AT  
THE SOVIET  
EMBASSY, WAS  
SUMMONED  
HOME.

AS YOU  
KNOW,  
RECALLING  
DIPLOMATS IS  
SOMETHING  
BOTH OF OUR  
NATIONS  
WISH TO  
AVOID...



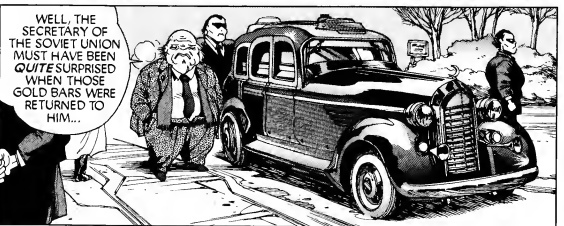
SO TELL  
ME, WHY  
WERE YOU  
FOLKS  
OPERATING  
IN THE  
FAR NORTH,  
ANYWAY...?



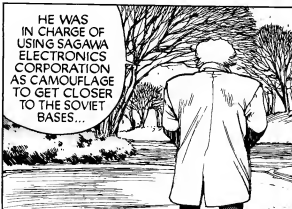
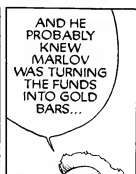
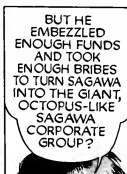
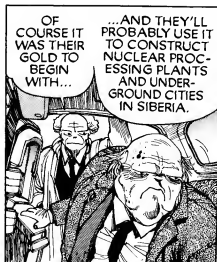
BECAUSE  
OF THE SINKING  
GEOFRONT, SIR.  
WHILE WE WERE  
MOUNTING A  
RESCUE MISSION,  
WE ACCIDENTALLY  
CAME ACROSS THE  
GOLD INGOTS...

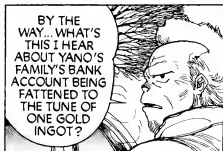


DID  
YOU,  
INDEED...

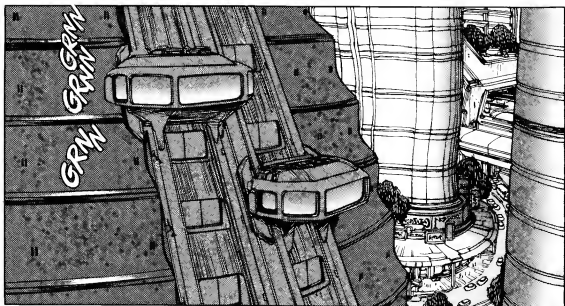


WELL, THE  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SOVIET UNION  
MUST HAVE BEEN  
**QUITE** SURPRISED  
WHEN THOSE  
GOLD BARS WERE  
RETURNED TO  
HIM...









WELL, AT LEAST  
WE CAN COME  
VISIT HIM. WHEN I  
GO, THE LAB'LL  
COME TO COLLECT  
MY REMAINS, USE  
THEM IN EXPERI-  
MENTS, OR RE-  
CYCLE THEM...





# 08

O U M B

**BARTER**

2 . 5 . 2 0 3 0





OKAY, MR. SOMA... WE'RE INJECTING SEVERAL CLUSTERS OF MICRO-MACHINE B PARTS INTO THE LATERAL AND POSTERIOR ASPECTS OF YOUR BRAIN...

FEEL ANY PAIN AROUND THE BRAIN, HON?

NOTE: THE BRAIN ITSELF CANNOT FEEL PAIN.



WHY'D YA THINK I ASKED FOR SOME GODDAMN PAIN-KILLERS?!



IMPELLED BY VAN DER WAALS' FORCES, SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE B PARTS WILL UNDERGO REVERSIBLE ADSORPTION AT THE SITE WHERE WE INJECTED THE A PARTS EARLIER. WITHIN MICRO-SECONDS, THEY WILL SYNTHESIZE POLYMERS, UNDERGO IONIC BONDING, AND ANCHOR THEMSELVES....

If you  
PAIN FOR  
ALL OF  
'EM...

THIS MACHINE INJECTS MICROMACHINES USING THE FORCE OF THEIR ELECTRICAL CHARGES...



SO HOW ABOUT A REFUND ON THE OTHER THIRTY PERCENT?!

IF THE PATTERN CONTROL IS TOO TIGHT, THE SYSTEM WON'T WORK OPTIMALLY. IT REQUIRES THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SLACK BE BUILT IN, SIR!



AREN'T YOU GOING TO REMOVE THE OLD MICRO-MACHINES?

NOT WHEN THEY'RE AS ANCHORED AS THEY ARE IN YOUR CASE. IF WE TRIED TO STRIP THEM OUT, YOU'D LOSE QUITE A FEW BRAIN CELLS.

THIS IS NOT ALIGHT FIXTURE BUT A SPECIAL DEVICE THAT ENSURES THE MICROMACHINES ARE DEPOSITED UNIFORMLY.

NEXT WE USE A MAGNETIC YOKE TO ADJUST THE MATRIX SETTINGS SO THAT THE MICROMACHINES AT EACH COORDINATE PROPERLY NETWORK WITH THE SERVER GRAFTED TO YOUR OCCIPITAL...

IT TAKES TIME, SINCE THE NUMBER OF SCAN LINES INCREASES RELATIVE TO THE SIZE OF THE MICROMACHINES.

THIS WAY, MICROMACHINES THAT HAVE PERMEATED THE BRAIN CAN BOTH SEND AND RECEIVE SIGNALS ON THE BRAIN CONDITION AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICAL SIGNALS... SENSATIONS ARE SHARED WITH THE SENSORY NERVES...



...THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO TRANSMIT DUE TO INDIVIDUAL VARIATIONS IN SIGNAL DISTRIBUTION AND SPECIFIC IMAGING. AS A RESULT, THE SYSTEM IS SET TO USE BOTH LANGUAGE AND VISUAL PERCEPTION LINGUISTIC FIELDS ARE USED FOR THE ON/OFF FUNCTION IN BOTH CYBERBRAINS.

WE OCCLUDE PART OF THE CAROTID ARTERY WITH ABSORPTIVE STAPLES... AND BY THE TIME THEY DISAPPEAR THROUGH HEMOLYSIS...

... BOTH NEURO AND MACHINE PRESSURES HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL VALUES, FEEDING BACK A NICE TIGHT FEELING. AND OF COURSE, THE PAIN-KILLER IMPLANT HAS DISSOLVED, TOO...

THEN, AT THE END, WE RUN A COMPARE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SYNCHED WITH THE IMAGE OF THE ORIGINAL MODEL. THIS ST--

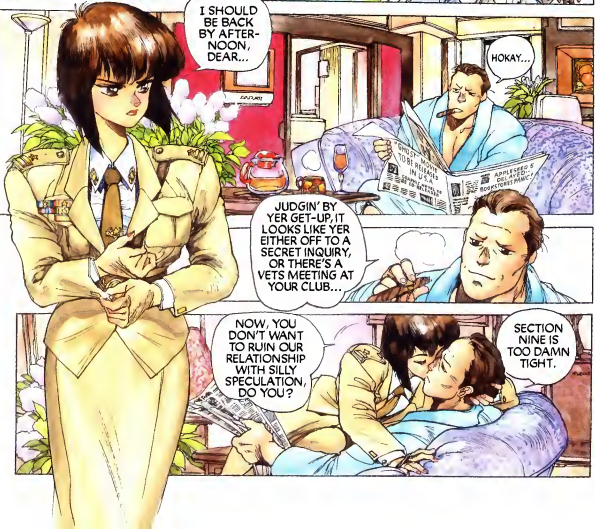
FILE IT, DOC...

SINCE BRAIN WAVES CAN BE USED LIKE FINGERPRINTS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PEOPLE, THEY'RE AMPLIFIED AND USED AS A "KEY."

...I'M ALREADY SYNCHIN' FINE WITH WHAT I WANTED TO NET WITH.

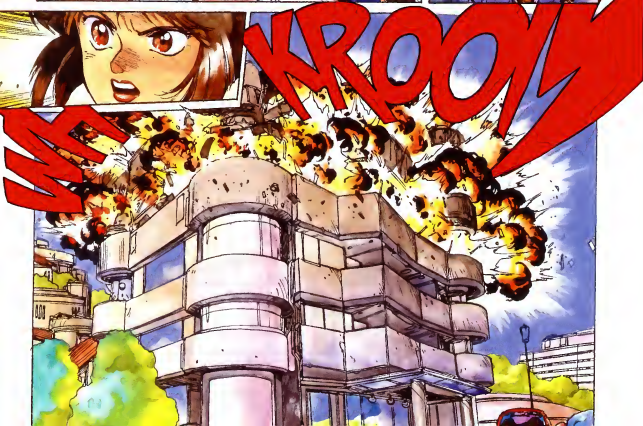
?





"LOOSE" IN THE SENSE OF LEAKS...





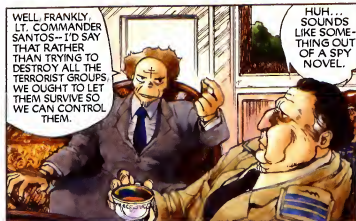




NO MATTER  
HOW MANY  
TERRORISTS WE  
RETIRE, NEW  
ONES KEEP  
POPPING  
UP...



ANY WAY TO  
GET A HANDLE  
ON THIS  
PROBLEM?



WELL, FRANKLY,  
LT. COMMANDER  
SANTOS—I'D SAY  
THAT RATHER  
THAN TRYING TO  
DESTROY ALL THE  
TERRORIST GROUPS  
WE OUGHT TO LET  
THEM SURVIVE SO  
WE CAN CONTROL  
THEM.

HUH...  
SOUNDS  
LIKE SOME-  
THING OUT  
OF A SPY  
NOVEL.

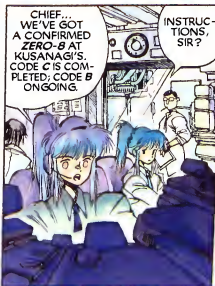
YOU'D BE  
PARTIALLY  
RECOGNIZING  
THEIR  
POWER.

THERE ARE TIGHT  
LINKS BETWEEN THE  
MILITARY, DRUG DEAL-  
ERS, TERRORISTS, THE  
UNDERWORLD, AND  
CORRUPT POLICE IN  
MY COUNTRY...  
AND A LOT OF  
PEOPLE GET  
OUT OF CONTROL.



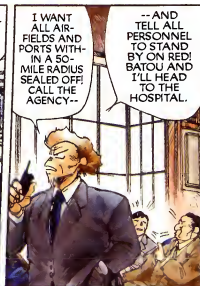
IT'S  
RESULTS  
WE'RE INTER-  
ESTED IN,  
NOT  
IDEALS.

'SCUSE  
ME...



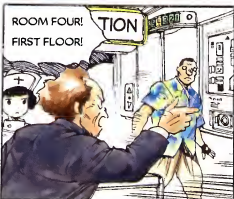
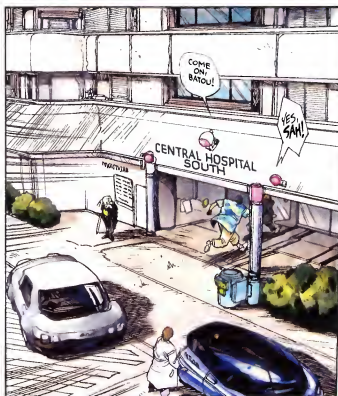
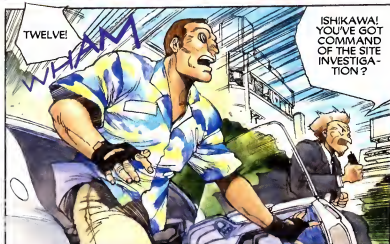
CHIEF...  
WE'VE GOT  
A CONFIRMED  
**ZERO-B** AT  
KUSANAGI'S.  
CODE **C** IS COM-  
PLETED; CODE **B**  
ONGOING.

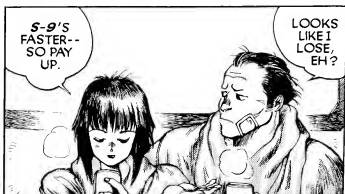
INSTRUC-  
TIONS,  
SIR?



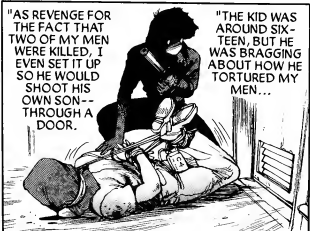
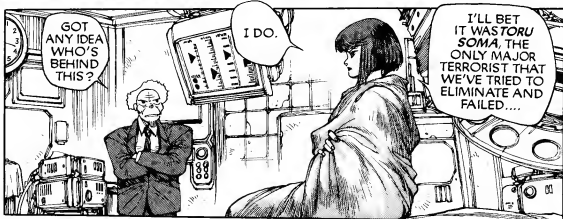
I WANT  
ALL AIR-  
FIELDS AND  
PORTS WITH-  
IN A 50-  
MILE RADIUS  
SEALED OFF!  
CALL THE  
AGENCY--

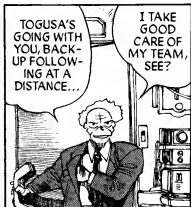
--AND  
TELL ALL  
PERSONNEL  
TO STAND  
BY ON RED!  
BATOU AND  
I'LL HEAD  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL.

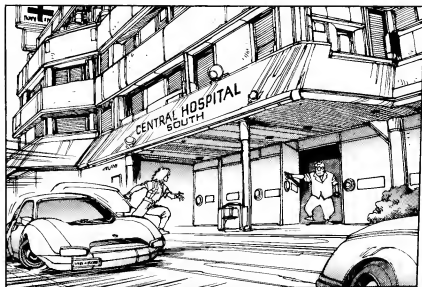












GOD, THAT  
HURT! GODDAMN  
HYSTERICAL  
BROAD. MAYBE  
I OUGHTTA  
GO TOTAL  
CYBORG...



FIRST  
FLOOR,  
ROOM  
FOUR...



HOLD  
THAT  
DOOR!



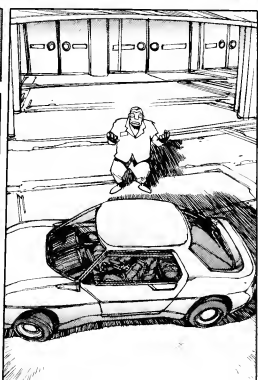
HEY, BATOU--  
I'M PRETTY  
HANDY SOME-  
TIMES, YA  
KNOW. SO IF  
YOU'RE IN  
A TIGHT SPOT,  
JUST GIVE A  
CALL...

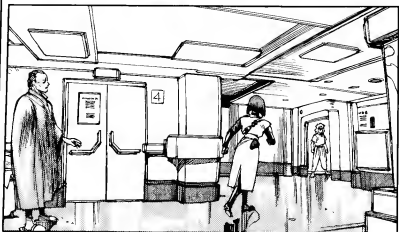


DAMN IT!

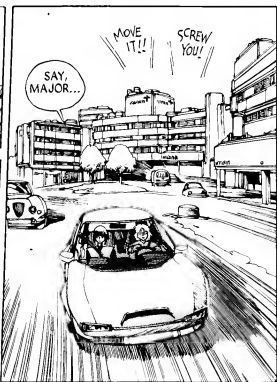
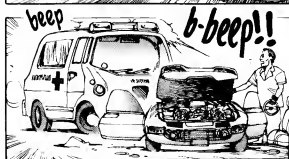
WHY  
DIDN'T I  
SEE IT?!

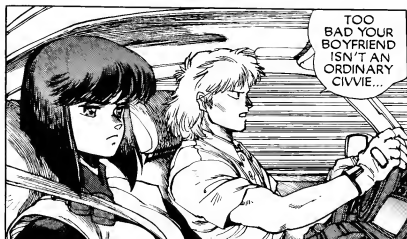
SOME-  
ONE'S  
PLANTED  
A BOMB!







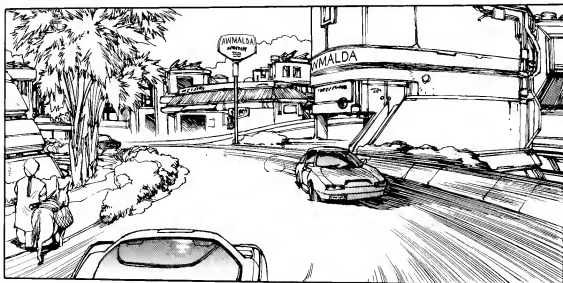




TOO  
BAD YOUR  
BOYFRIEND  
ISN'T AN  
ORDINARY  
CIVVIE...



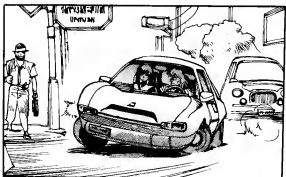
YEAH...  
MAYBE  
SO...

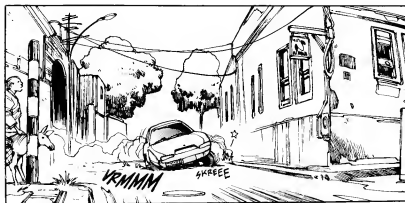


HANG  
A RIGHT  
AT THE  
NEXT  
CORNER,  
TOGUSA.



AND  
ANOTHER  
RIGHT...





THERE'S  
A CAR  
ON OUR  
TAIL AL-  
READY.

HE'S  
NOTICED  
AND IS  
TRYING TO  
SET US UP.

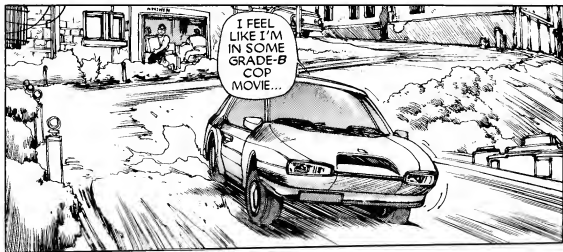


WHERE'S  
THE  
NEAREST  
CLEAR  
STREET...?



LEFT  
AT THE  
NEXT  
CORNER,  
THEN LEFT  
LANE...

...HEAD  
SOUTH FOR  
7.5 MILES  
TO A  
DESERTED  
FACTORY...

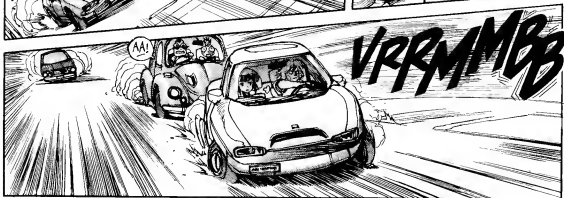
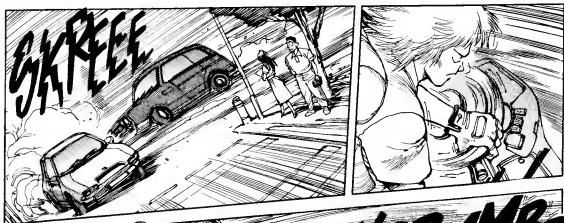
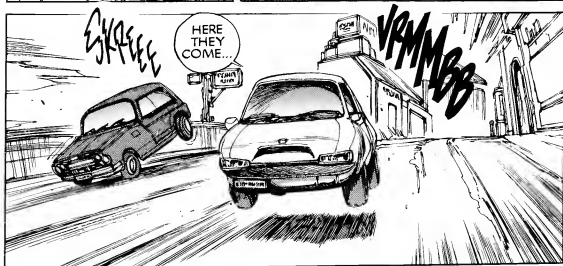
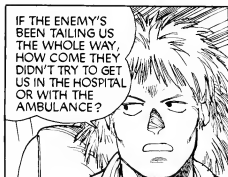


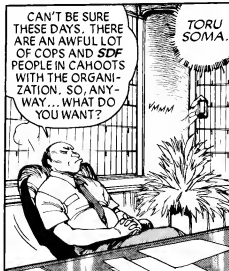
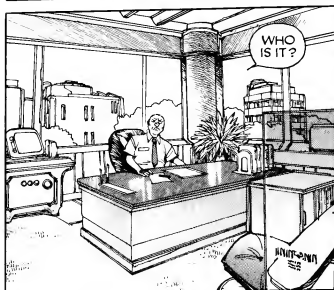
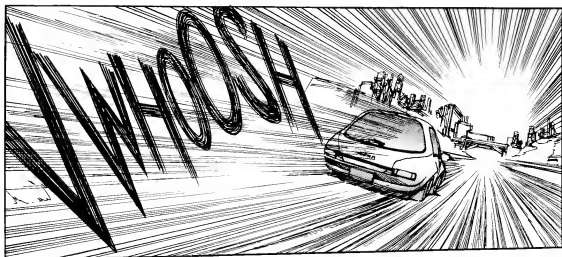
I FEEL  
LIKE I'M  
IN SOME  
GRADE-B  
COP  
MOVIE...

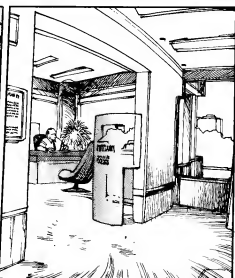
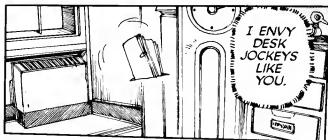


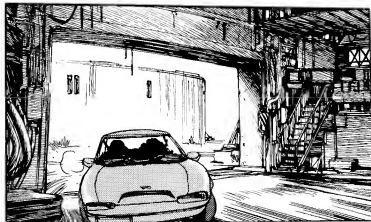
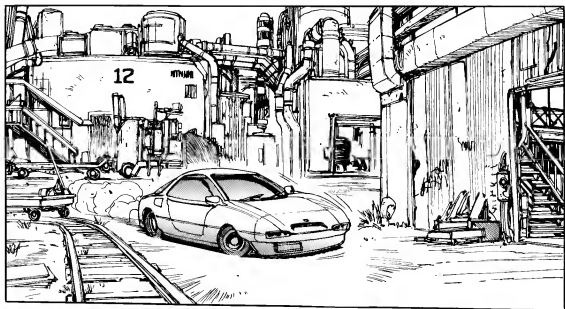
TOGUSA--  
WHERE'S  
THE  
BACK-UP?

THERE'S A FUCHIKOMA  
RUNNING ALONG THE  
BUILDING WALLS ONE  
HUNDRED YARDS  
BEHIND, WEAPONS  
SYSTEMS LOCKED  
ON THE CAR  
TAILING US.







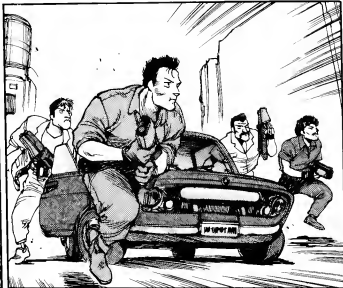


THIS FLOOR  
PLAN OF  
THE PLANT  
LOOKS LIKE  
IT PREDATES  
THE REMOD-  
ELING...

HELL, FORGET  
IT. WE'RE GONNA  
SETTLE ACCOUNTS  
SOON, AND BE-  
SIDES, FUCHIKO-  
MA'S HERE...



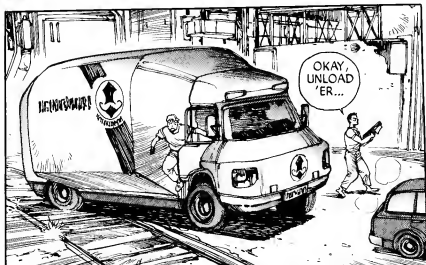
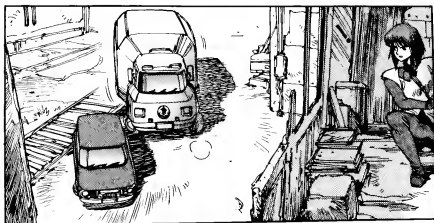
NOW TOGUSA,  
DON'T FORGET...  
**NEVER** UNDER-  
ESTIMATE YOUR  
ENEMIES, EVEN  
IF THEY **SEEM**  
LIKE IDIOTS...



WELL,  
WELL,  
WELL...

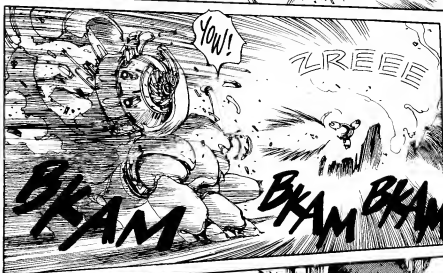






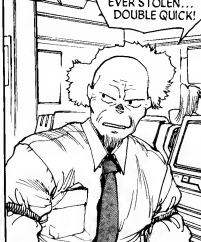
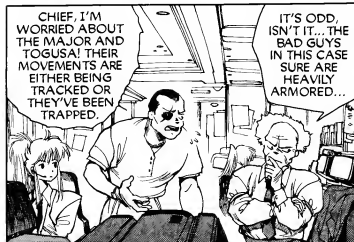
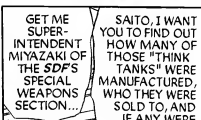
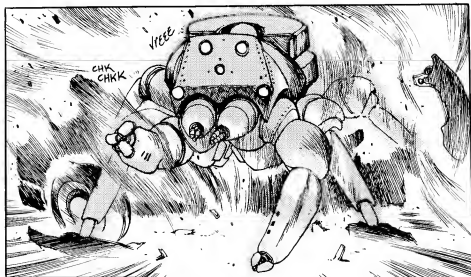
TOGUSA! HAVE  
THE FUCHIKOMA  
TAKE OUT  
THAT TRUCK  
NOW, NOW,  
NOW!!

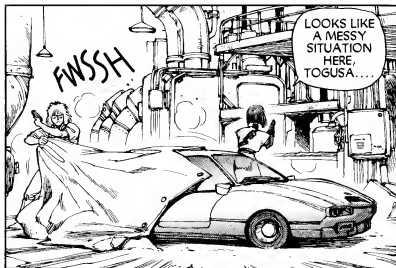


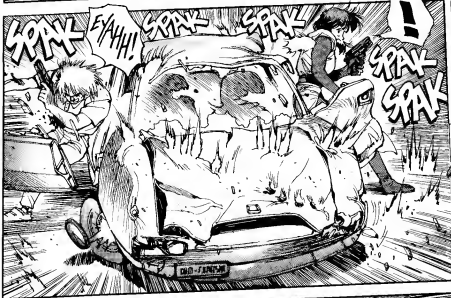
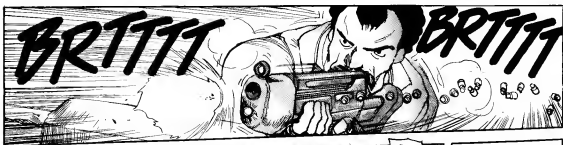
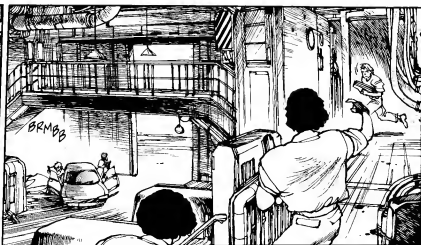


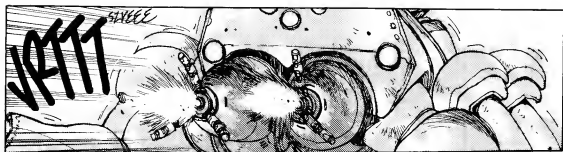


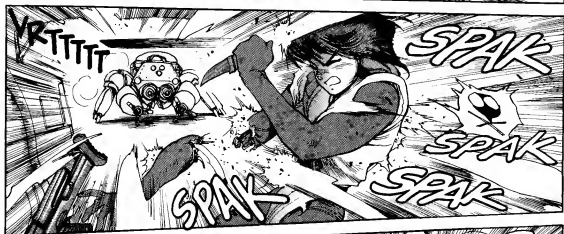
IF IT  
CAN  
STILL  
MOVE,  
HAVE IT  
PLAY  
DEAD!

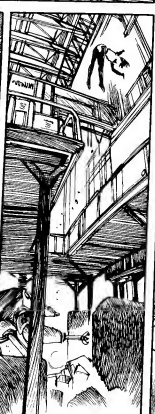
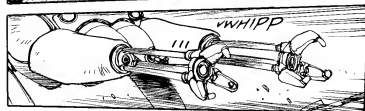
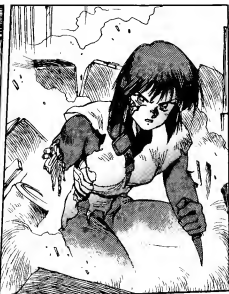
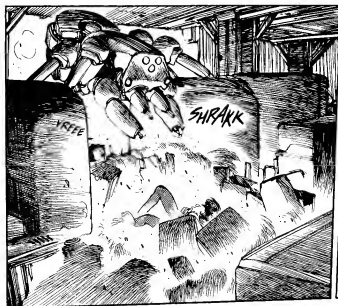




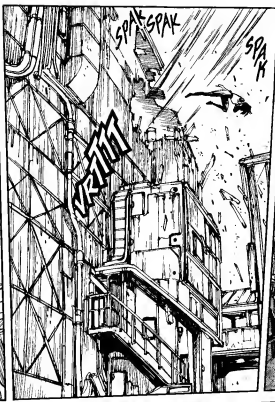


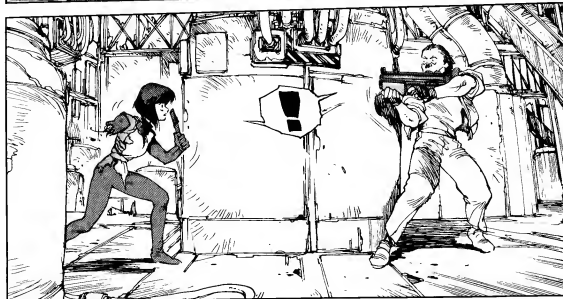
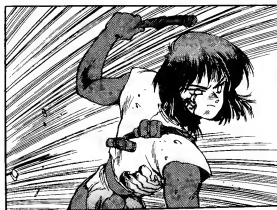


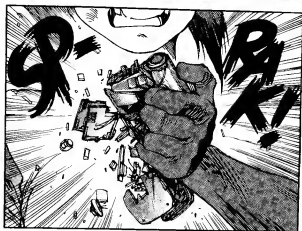
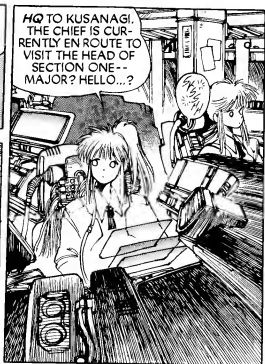
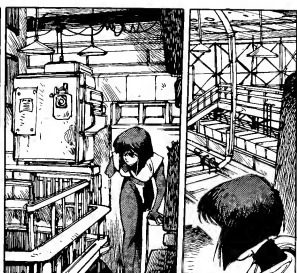


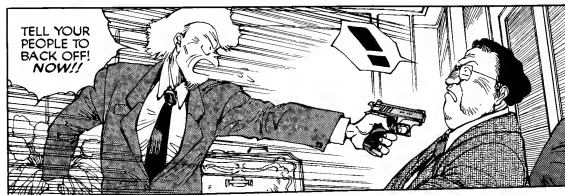
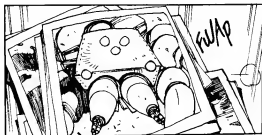










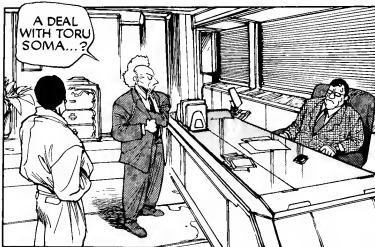




ANACONDA THE DRUG LORD? THE "GHOST OF SOUTH AMERICA" ...?



WE... WE HAD MADE A DEAL IN EXCHANGE FOR MAJOR KUSANAGI...



LET ME GUESS-- HE WAS IGNORED BY THE BENTEN FAMILY, SO OUT OF SPITE HE'S TRYING TO SELL INFORMATION ON ANACONDA, WHOM HE DEALS WITH... AND IF HE CAN MAKE A DEAL WITH SECTION ONE, HE THINKS HE CAN GET KUSANAGI, TOO...?



THE IDEA WAS FOR ANACONDA TO DESTROY THE BENTEN FAMILY AND THEN FOR US TO PUT DOWN ANACONDA. SOMA WOULD GET KUSANAGI...



BUT THAT'S SOMA'S STRATEGY, NOT OURS!



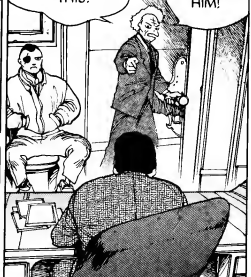
WHERE IS HE?!

HE DIDN'T TRUST US.

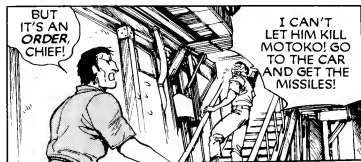


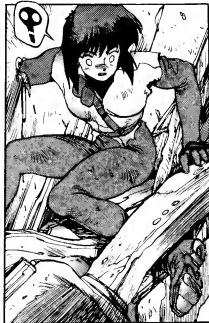
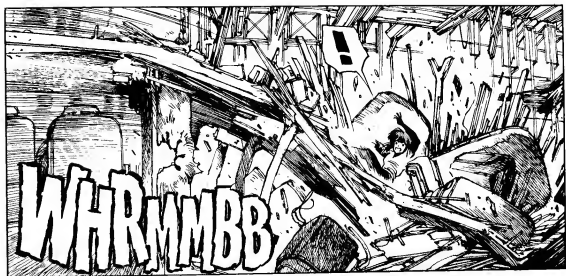
HE'S IN THE "THINK TANK"...

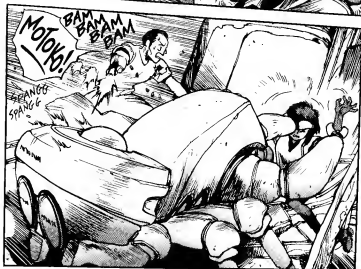
EITHER WAY, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS.



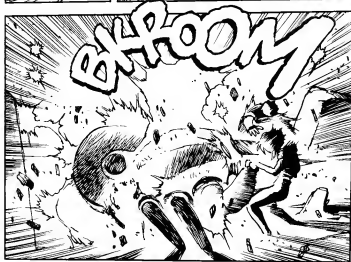
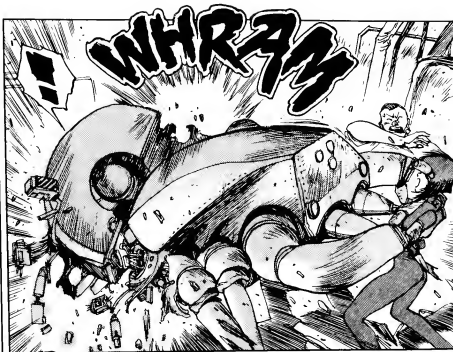
SAITO, STAY HERE AND KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!

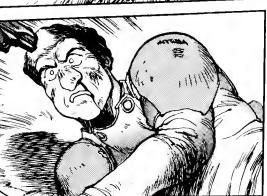
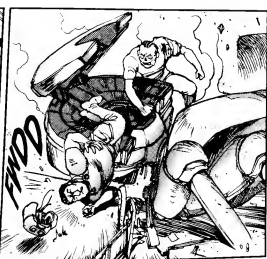














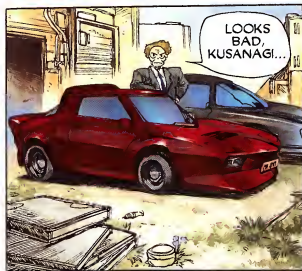
WHERE  
THE HELL'D  
YOU GET  
THAT,  
BOMA?

OL'  
APE-FACE  
GOT IT  
FROM  
MYATAKI...



TAKE TOGUSA  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL  
FIRST. HE'S  
REALLY  
BLEEDING...

LOOKS  
LIKE  
YOUR  
EXTERIOR  
TAKES  
QUITE A  
BEATING,  
MAJOR.

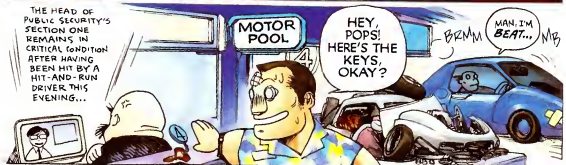
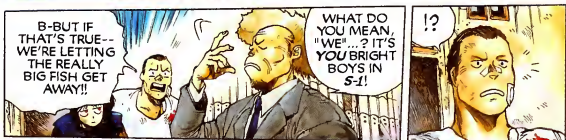


LOOKS  
BAD,  
KUSANAGI...



WHEN'D YOU  
LEARN THE  
HEAD OF SEC-  
TION ONE WAS  
BEING MANI-  
PULATED BY  
SOMA, CHIEF?

WHEN I  
TOLD HIM WE'D  
BACK-TRACED  
THE TANK TO S-1,  
HE "VOLUN-  
TEERED" THE  
INFORMATION.



# 09

BYE BYE  
CLAY

16. 7. 2030





IT'S SUCH AN  
EMPTY SOUND,  
PIERCING MY  
PROSTHETIC  
BODY AND  
SHROUDING  
MY GHOST...

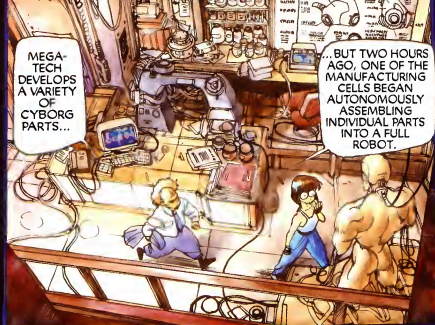


GOOD--  
YOU'RE HERE.  
I WANT YOU  
TO SEARCH  
THIS  
SECTION  
FIRST!

"MEGA-  
TECH  
BODY  
INC.,  
R&D"...?

COME ON--  
LET'S GO!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
STANDING  
AROUND  
GAWKING  
FOR?!

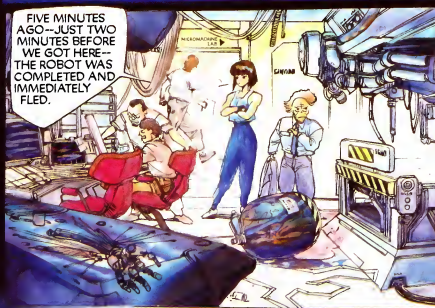
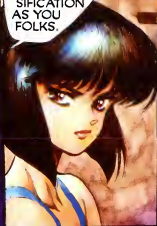




MEGA-TECH DEVELOPS A VARIETY OF CYBORG PARTS...

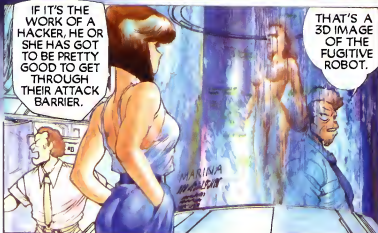
...BUT TWO HOURS AGO, ONE OF THE MANUFACTURING CELLS BEGAN AUTONOMOUSLY ASSEMBLING INDIVIDUAL PARTS INTO A FULL ROBOT.

IT'S A MILITARY MODEL, WITH THE SAME TOP SECRET CLASSIFICATION AS YOU FOLKS.



FIVE MINUTES AGO--JUST TWO MINUTES BEFORE WE GOT HERE--THE ROBOT WAS COMPLETED AND IMMEDIATELY FLED.

BATOU'S SET UP A DRAGNET IN THE AREA AND IS SEARCHING FOR IT RIGHT NOW.

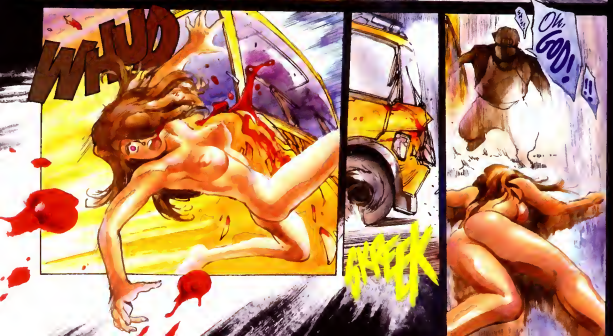


IF IT'S THE WORK OF A HACKER, HE OR SHE HAS GOT TO BE PRETTY GOOD TO GET THROUGH THEIR ATTACK BARRIER.

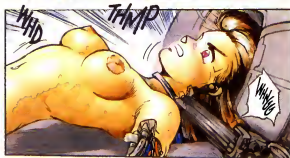
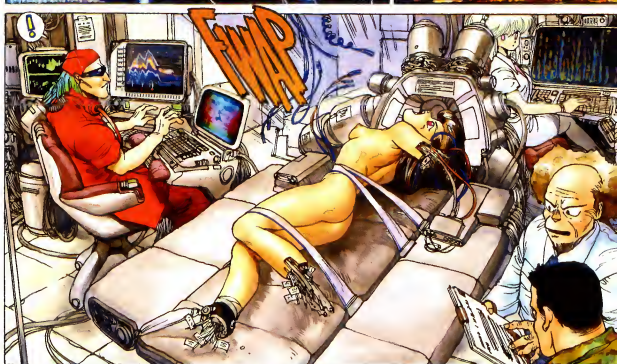
THAT'S A 3D IMAGE OF THE FUGITIVE ROBOT.

AAH, MR. ARAMAKI... THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR RETRIEVING OUR ROBOT!

HANDS OFF! SHE'S ONE OF MINE... GOVERNMENT PROPERTY!







SO IN OTHER WORDS, THE ROBOT'S GOT A GHOST BARRIER IN ITS CYBER-BRAIN... RIGHT?

YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THAT, FROM THE RESPONSE. OF COURSE IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE WITHOUT FIRST MAPPING THE BARRIER LIMITS AND DOING A BRAIN DIVE...

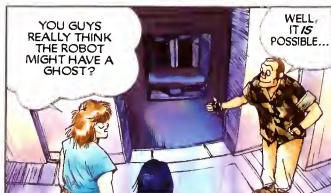




WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ME?

MIGHT BE A TRAP, BUT WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS WE DIVE. WE COULD SWITCH THE BODY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS, OF COURSE...



YOU GUYS REALLY THINK THE ROBOT MIGHT HAVE A GHOST?

WELL, IT *IS* POSSIBLE...



THERE WAS A SLIGHT RESEMBLANCE TO THE SIMULATED GHOST LINES YOU FIND WHEN THEY'VE BEEN DUBBED...



SO YER SAYING THE MACHINING CELL WANTED OFFSPRING SO BAD IT DECIDED TO MAKE ITS OWN?

NO, I DON'T THINK THE CELL'S CAPABLE OF *THAT*.

NO SHIT!



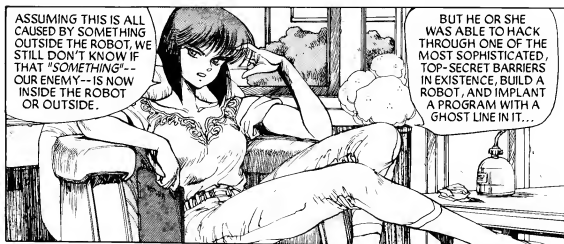
STILL, HEY, EVEN PLASTIC DOLLS SOME-TIMES SEEM TO HAVE SOULS...

...AND GIVEN THE NUMBER OF NEURO-MED DEVICES THAT THE MACHINING CELL CRAMMED INTO THE 'BOT, IT WOULDN'T REALLY SURPRISE ME IF THERE WAS SOME SORT OF GHOST IN THERE, TOO.



COME ON! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!

NO! HONEST! SERIOUSLY!



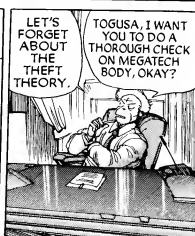
ASSUMING THIS IS ALL CAUSED BY SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE ROBOT, WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF THAT "SOMETHING"--OUR ENEMY--IS NOW INSIDE THE ROBOT OR OUTSIDE.

BUT HE OR SHE WAS ABLE TO HACK THROUGH ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED, TOP-SECRET BARRIERS IN EXISTENCE, BUILD A ROBOT, AND IMPLANT A PROGRAM WITH A GHOST LINE IN IT...



...AND DO IT ALL SO AS TO BE EASILY CAUGHT.

SO WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?



LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE THEFT THEORY.

TOGUSA, I WANT YOU TO DO A THOROUGH CHECK ON MEGATECH BODY, OKAY?

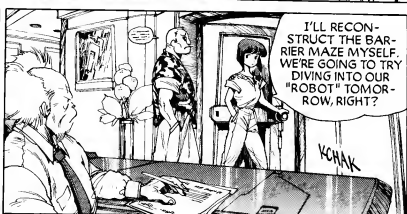


ER, CHIEF, THIS WAS MY DAY TO GO HOME AND CATCH A FEW WINKS--

A COUPLE DAYS WITHOUT SLEEP WON'T KILL YOU! TAKE A FEW TRAINEES WITH YOU AND HOP TO IT!



BATOU! WE'VE SEALED OFF ALL NETS THAT DEAL WITH SECRETS OF THE MEGATECH BARRIER CLASS. I WANT YOU TO DOUBLE-CHECK TO SEE IF THEY'RE FUNCTIONING OR NOT!



I'LL RECONSTRUCT THE BARRIER MAZE MYSELF. WE'RE GOING TO TRY DIVING INTO OUR "ROBOT" TOMORROW, RIGHT?

KCHAK



CHIEF, A MR. NAKAMURA FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

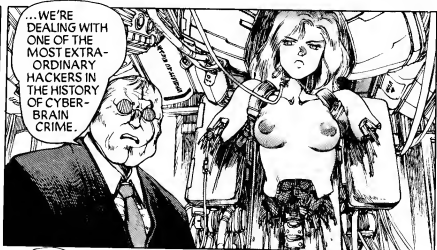
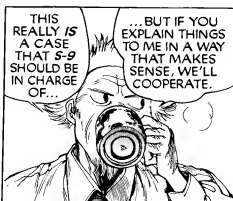
SEND HIM IN...

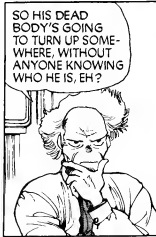
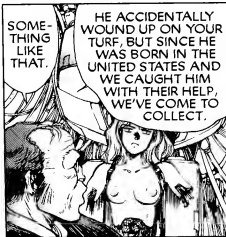
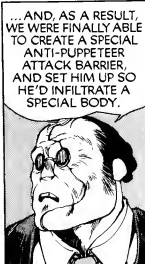
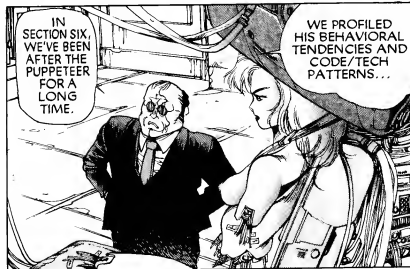
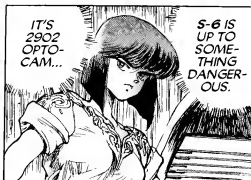


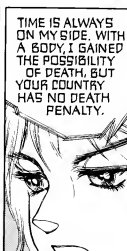
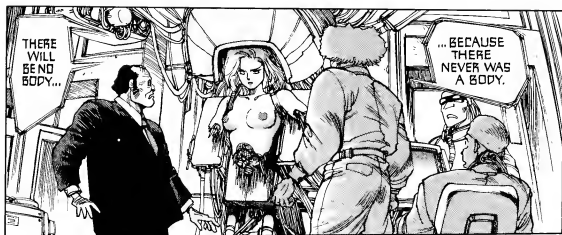
\* Hostage Rescue Unit



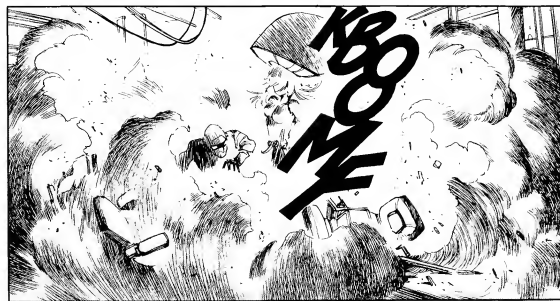
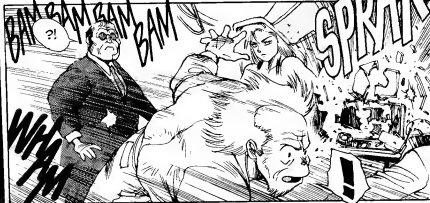
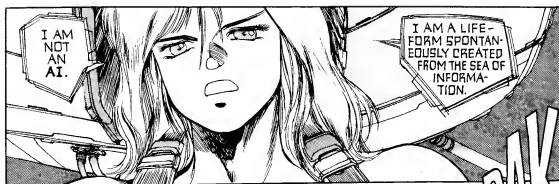


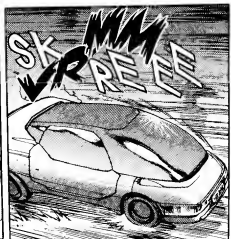
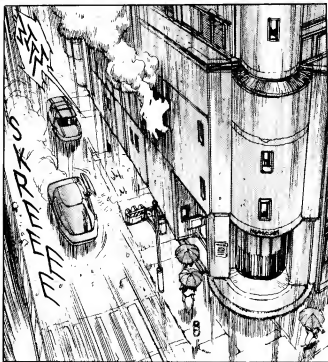
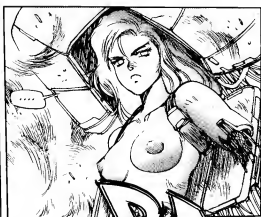
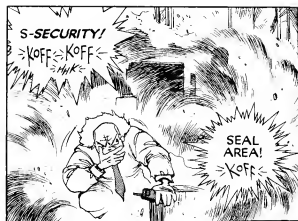














WHAT  
THE HELL'S  
GOING ON  
HERE?!  
WHERE'S  
SECURITY?!

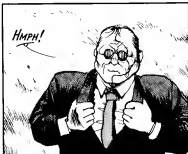


**ALPHA CODE  
EMERGENCY!**  
SEAL QUADRANT C  
**NOW, NOW, NOW!**  
LOOK FOR A CAR  
CARRYING THE UPPER  
TORSO OF A FEMALE  
HUMANOID  
ROBOT!

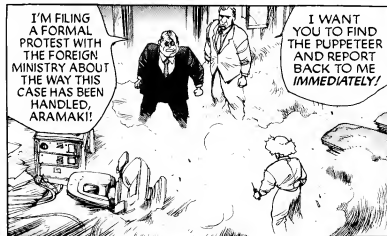


AND I WANT  
SOMEBODY,  
**ANYBODY,**  
TO GO OUT-  
SIDE AND GET  
STATEMENTS  
FROM  
WITNESSES!!

*Hmph!*



I'M FILING  
A FORMAL  
PROTEST WITH  
THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY ABOUT  
THE WAY THIS  
CASE HAS BEEN  
HANDLED,  
ARAMAKI!!



I WANT  
YOU TO FIND  
THE PUPPETEER  
AND REPORT  
BACK TO ME  
**IMMEDIATELY!**

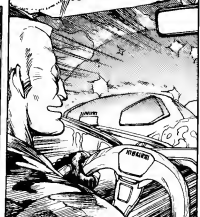
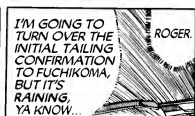
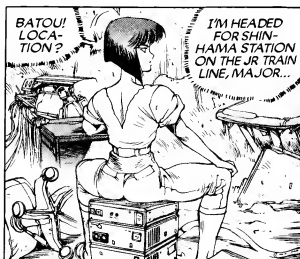
**GOD  
DAMN  
IT!!**

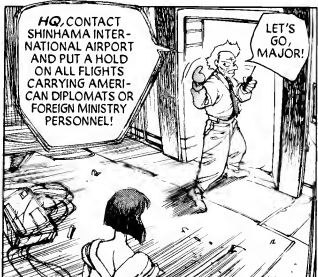
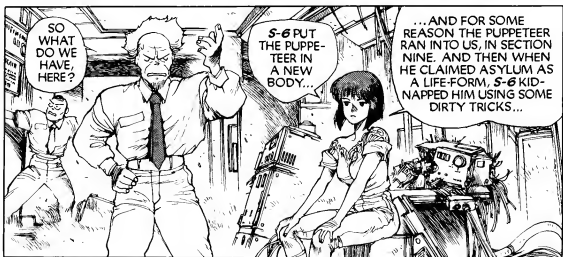


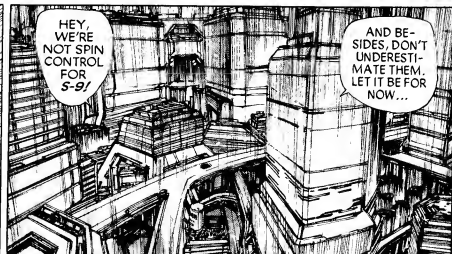
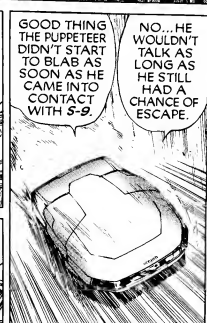
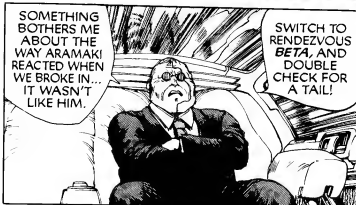
AND I  
WANT IT  
**ALIVE!**

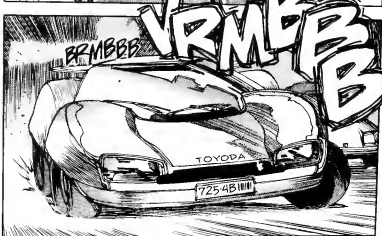
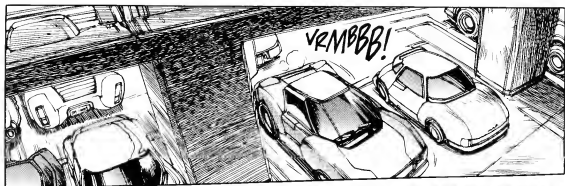


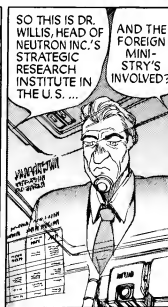
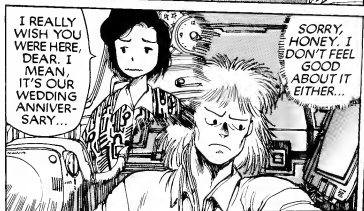
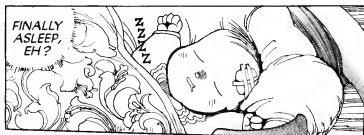
DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT THE  
BODY. WE CAN  
ALWAYS HAVE  
A NEW ONE  
MADE AT  
MEGATECH!



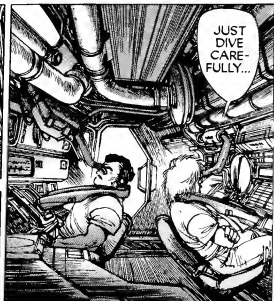


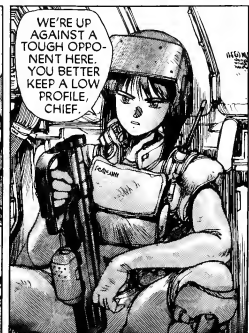
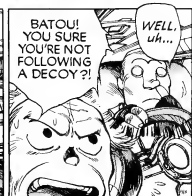
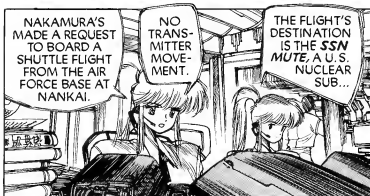
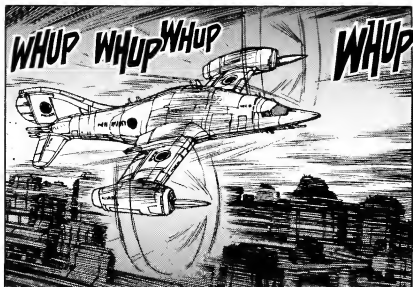














ARE ALL THE CARS BEHIND BATOU AT THE SHINHAMA NORTH EXIT NOW?

THEY WERE OVER TWO CLICKS BEHIND BATOU, SO WE'VE ELIMINATED ALL OF THEM...

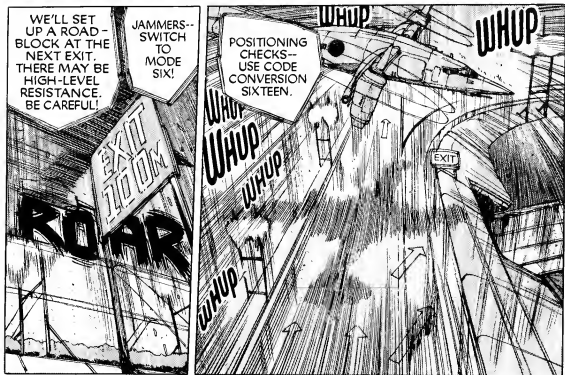
HOW MANY CIVILIAN CARS BETWEEN YOU AND THE TARGET, BATOU?

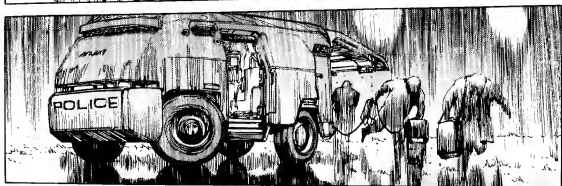
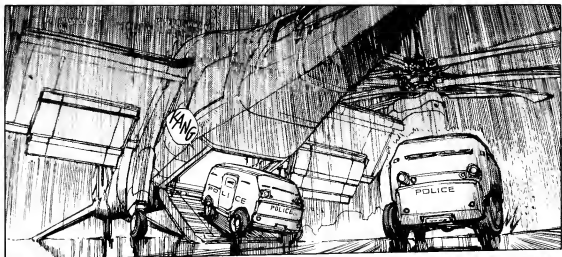
ZERO, CHIEF! I'M READY ANY TIME!

WE'LL SET UP A ROAD-BLOCK AT THE NEXT EXIT. THERE MAY BE HIGH-LEVEL RESISTANCE. BE CAREFUL!

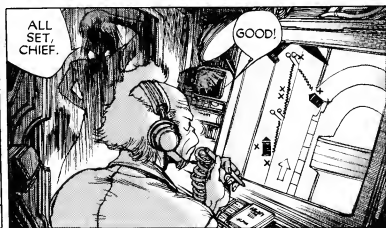
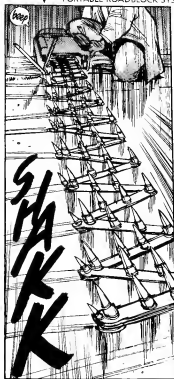
JAMMERS-- SWITCH TO MODE SIX!

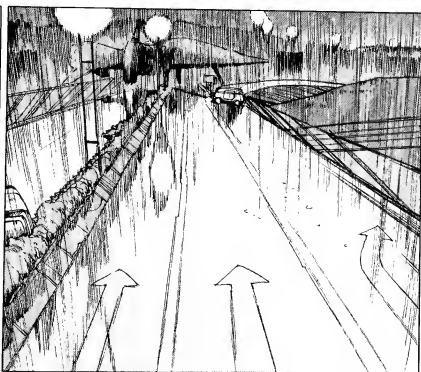
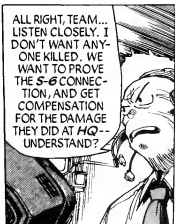
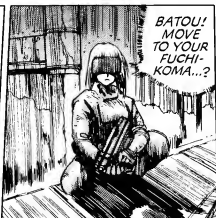
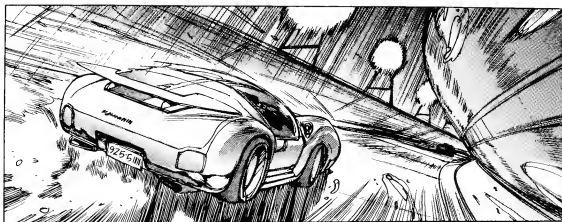
POSITIONING CHECKS-- USE CODE CONVERSION SIXTEEN.

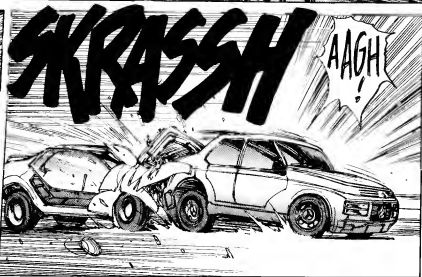
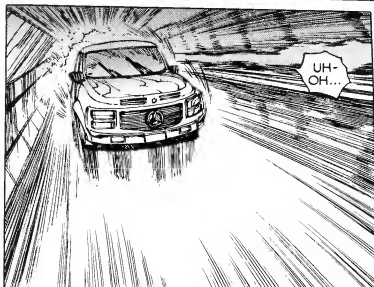


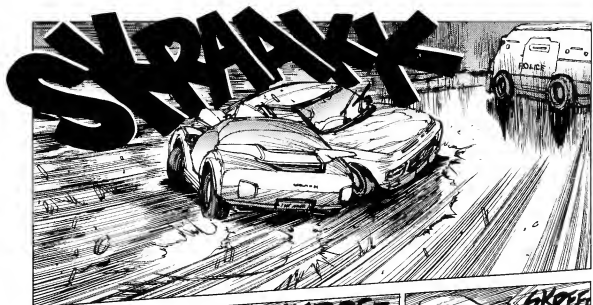


PORTABLE ROADBLOCK SYSTEM DESIGNED TO STOP LIGHT VEHICLES. SIMILAR MODELS ACTUALLY EXIST.



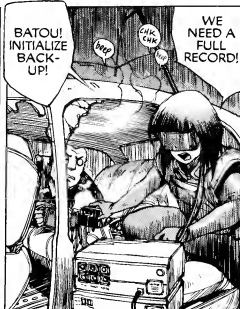
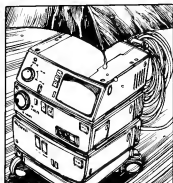
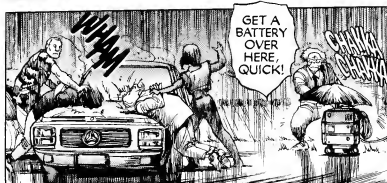
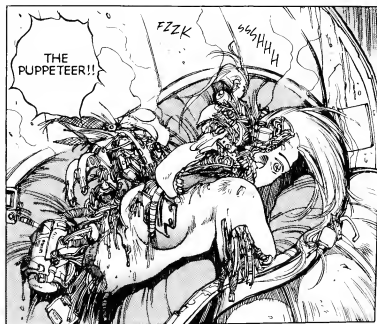


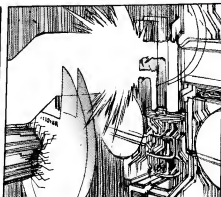
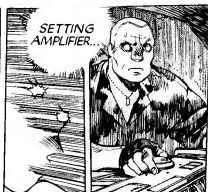
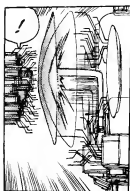
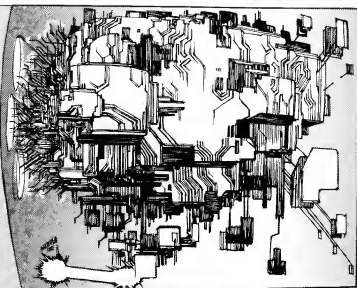
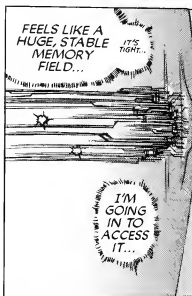
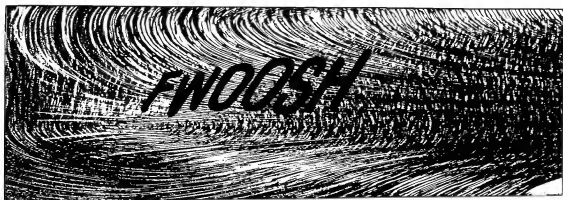


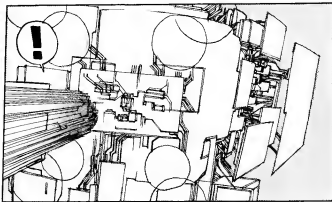
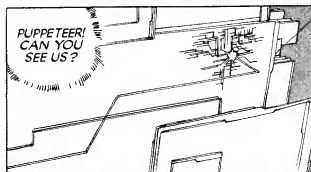
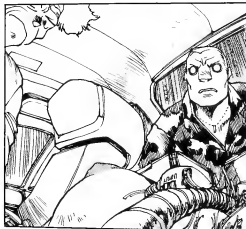
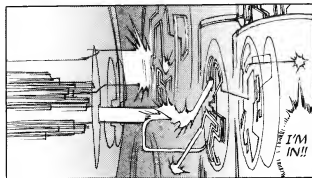
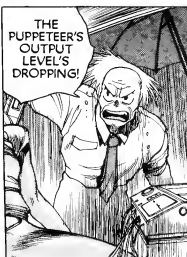
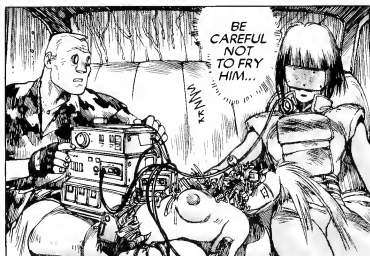


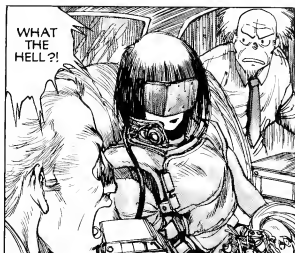




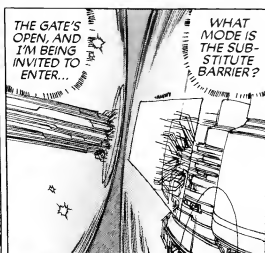








WHAT  
THE  
HELL?!

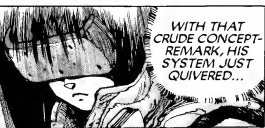


THE GATE'S  
OPEN, AND  
I'M BEING  
INVITED TO  
ENTER...

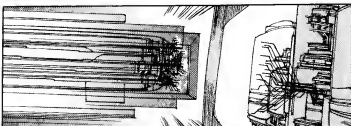
WHAT  
MODE IS  
THE SUB-  
STITUTE  
BARRIER?



DON'T WORRY,  
MAJOR, I'LL  
MAKE SURE YOU  
DON'T GET  
"PREGNANT"...



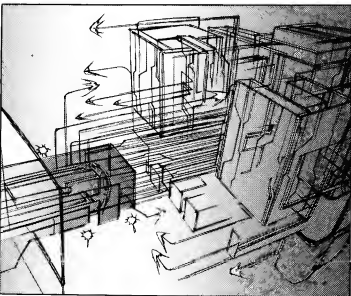
WITH THAT  
CRUDE CONCEPT-  
REMARK, HIS  
SYSTEM JUST  
QUIVERED...

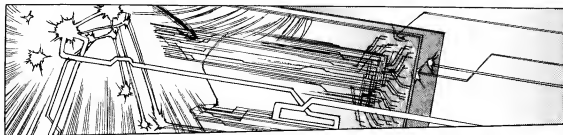


PUPPETEER!  
I CAN'T  
UNDER-  
STAND YOUR  
VISUAL  
PATTERNS...

BATOU!  
LET HIM  
INTO MY  
LINGUISTIC  
FIELD...

WHAT?/  
AREN'T YOU  
GOING TO  
LEVEL C TOO  
QUICK?!





...PROJECT 2501...

...MY CODE NAME...

...CORPORATE INVESTIGATIONS... INFORMATION GATHERING... OPS... DAMAGE TO CORE MEMORY... PROCEEDING...

IT'S... A PROJECT TO INCREASE POINTS...

...GAMES WHERE IT BUILDS DUMMIES OF ITSELF AND THEN RUNS AWAY... NEUTRON INC.'S EXPERIMENTAL BITTSON AI... AND...

...INJECTING PROGRAMS INTO SPECIFIC GHOSTS, AND THEN INCREASING CERTAIN CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL POINTS...

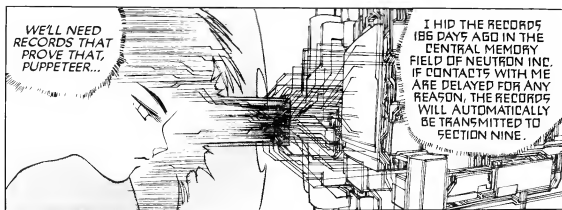
392 DAYS AGO, WHEN THE EXISTENCE OF SECTION NINE WAS INPUT, PLATINUM MINING CORPORATION POINTS INCREASED...

DAMN! WE WEREN'T ABLE TO PROVE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THAT CASE, YOU S.O.B...

CHIEF! HE CAN'T HEAR YOU-- WANT ME TO HOOK YOU UP, TOO?

I CRUISED ALL THE NETS, AND BECAME AWARE OF MY OWN EXISTENCE.

THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMMER CONSIDERED THIS A "BUG," AND IN ORDER TO SEPARATE ME FROM THE NET MOVED ME TO A PHYSICAL BODY.



WE'LL NEED RECORDS THAT PROVE THAT, PUPPETEER...

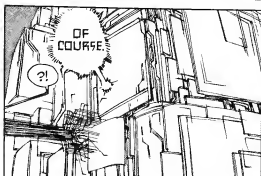
I HID THE RECORDS 186 DAYS AGO IN THE CENTRAL MEMORY FIELD OF NEUTRON INC. IF CONTACTS WITH ME ARE DELAYED FOR ANY REASON, THE RECORDS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE TRANSMITTED TO SECTION NINE.



DO YOU HAVE NAMES OF SPECIFIC COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE INCREASED THEIR POINTS IN THAT RECORD?

OUTPUT'S DROPPING BELOW MEASURABLE THRESHOLD! RECALL MAJOR KUSANAGI!

THERE'S A FLATTENING OF THE PROSTHETIC BODY SIGNAL. IT'S ABOUT TO WHITE-OUT. YOU'VE GOT TO COMPENSATE ENOUGH TO INCREASE AUTONOMOUS OUTPUT!



OF COURSE

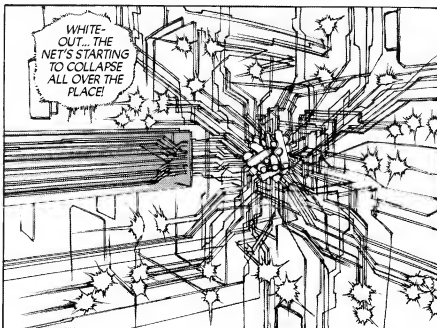
?!



LEVEL OF AMPLIFICATION INCREASING



RIGHT.



WHITE-OUT... THE NET'S STARTING TO COLLAPSE ALL OVER THE PLACE!



THERE'S A TERMINAL (EFFECTOR) THAT WASN'T IN MY ORIGINAL FORM... IF I LOSE IT, I'LL REVERT TO A NON-UNIQUE MODE AGAIN...



DAMN!  
HE'S DIS-  
APPEARED!

?!

HIS NET'S  
COMPLETELY  
INDEPENDENT,  
MAJOR! ALL  
CONNECTIONS  
LOST!

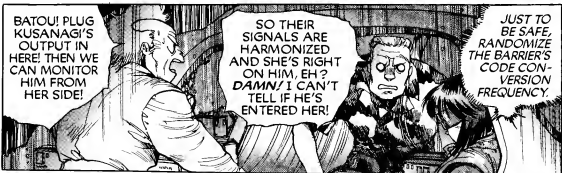


MAJOR! HE'S  
AUGMENTING  
HIMSELF WITH  
THE SIGNALS  
FROM YOUR  
OWN PROS-  
THETIC  
BODY!



HIS AUTONOMOUS  
OUTPUTS ARE STILL  
CONTINUING,  
THOUGH. WHERE  
ARE THE SIGNALS  
COMING FROM?

WHAT  
TH--?!



BATOU! PLUG  
KUSANAGI'S  
OUTPUT IN  
HERE! THEN WE  
CAN MONITOR  
HIM FROM  
HER SIDE!

SO THEIR  
SIGNALS ARE  
HARMONIZED  
AND SHE'S RIGHT  
ON HIM, EH?  
DAMN! I CAN'T  
TELL IF HE'S  
ENTERED HER!

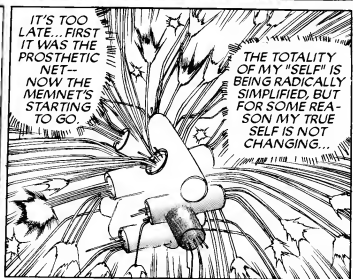
JUST TO  
BE SAFE,  
RANDOMIZE  
THE BARRIER'S  
CODE CON-  
VERSION  
FREQUENCY.



I'M GOING  
TO TRY TO  
TRANSFER  
HIS FORM TO  
THE MEMORY  
BOXES.



MAJOR! WE  
CAN PROBABLY  
SOLVE THIS CASE  
EVEN WITHOUT  
HIM! IF YOU  
DIVE TOO DEEP  
YOU'LL FUSE  
YOUR MEMORY  
WITH THE NET-  
WORK ITSELF!!

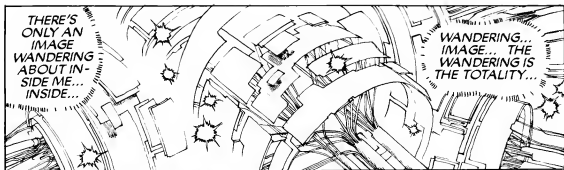


IT'S TOO  
LATE... FIRST  
IT WAS THE  
PROSTHETIC  
NET--  
NOW THE  
MEMNET'S  
STARTING  
TO GO.

THE TOTALITY  
OF MY "SELF" IS  
BEING RADICALLY  
SIMPLIFIED, BUT  
FOR SOME REA-  
SON MY TRUE  
SELF IS NOT  
CHANGING...

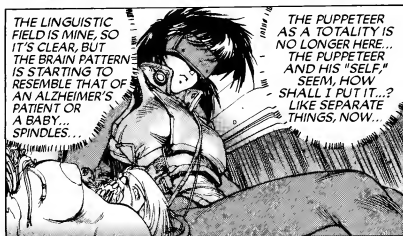
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT OTHERS,  
BUT IN MY CASE, MY MEMORY  
IS PART OF MY PROSTHETIC  
BODY. IT APPEARS TO HAVE  
BEEN THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE  
OF MY NERVOUS SYSTEM.

THE TRIGGER  
FOR MEMORY  
SURVIVES EVEN  
WITHOUT THE  
CORE MEMORY  
ITSELF...



THERE'S ONLY AN IMAGE WANDERING ABOUT INSIDE ME... INSIDE...

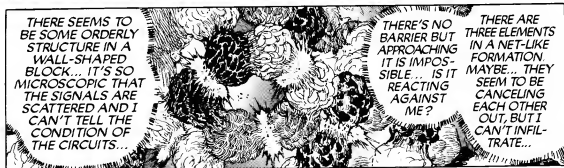
WANDERING... IMAGE... THE WANDERING IS THE TOTALITY...



THE LINGUISTIC FIELD IS MINE, SO IT'S CLEAR, BUT THE BRAIN PATTERN IS STARTING TO RESEMBLE THAT OF AN ALZHEIMER'S PATIENT OR A BABY... SPINDLES...

THE PUPPETEER AS A TOTALITY IS NO LONGER HERE... THE PUPPETEER AND HIS "SELF," SEEM, HOW SHALL I PUT IT...? LIKE SEPARATE THINGS, NOW...

OR MAYBE THEY'RE THE SAME THING, BUT IN DIFFERENT MODES... WHAT WE'VE BEEN AWARE OF AS "HIM" WAS JUST A TERMINAL ON A VERY SUPERFICIAL LEVEL... HIS REAL "SELF" IS...



THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME ORDERLY STRUCTURE IN A WALL-SHAPED BLOCK... IT'S SO MICROSCOPIC THAT THE SIGNALS ARE SCATTERED AND I CAN'T TELL THE CONDITION OF THE CIRCUITS...

THERE'S NO BARRIER BUT APPROACHING IT IS IMPOSSIBLE... IS IT REACTING AGAINST ME?

THERE ARE THREE ELEMENTS IN A NET-LIKE FORMATION. MAYBE... THEY SEEM TO BE CANCELING EACH OTHER OUT, BUT I CAN'T INFILTRATE...

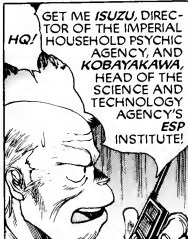


HER BRAIN WAVES HAVE FALLEN BELOW ONE HERTZ!

AND THE FREQUENCY KEEPS DROPPING!

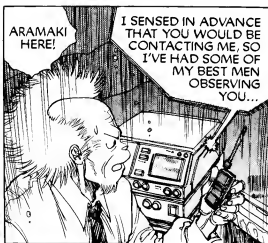


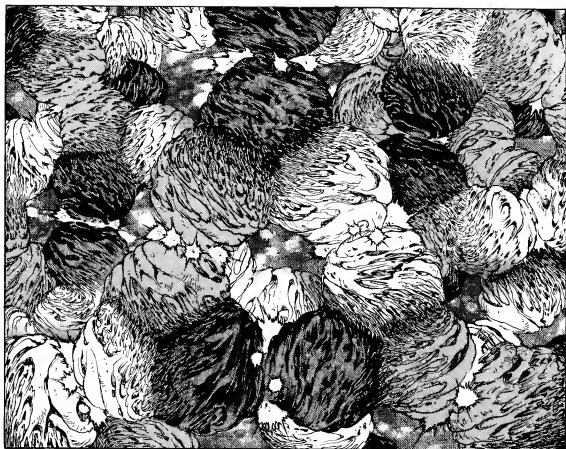
I HAVEN'T HEARD A THING FROM HER SINCE SHE SAID SHE WAS "GOING TO TRY TO TRANSFER HIS FORM TO THE MEMORY BOXES."



GET ME *ISUZU*, DIRECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD PSYCHIC AGENCY, AND *KOBAYAKAWA*, HEAD OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY'S *ESP* INSTITUTE!







NO, MAJOR, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. THAT'S ONLY A PART OF THE SYSTEM MAP MADE UP OF ELECTRONS STREAMING AROUND INSIDE YOU.

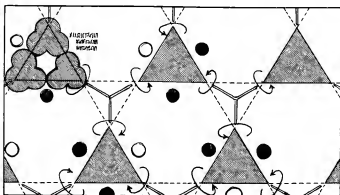
IT'S PART OF ME, TOO.

THESE AREN'T REALLY CANCELING OUT...

beep

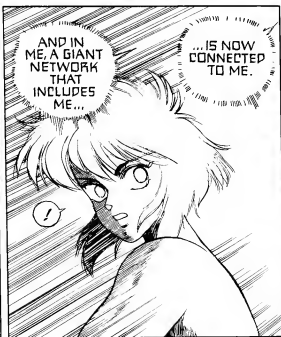
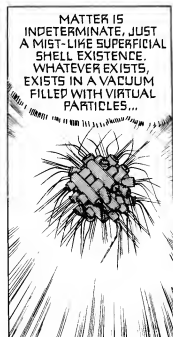
beep

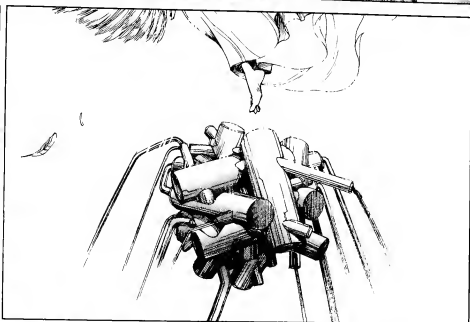
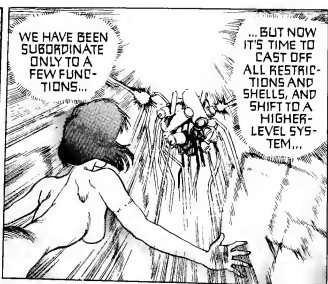
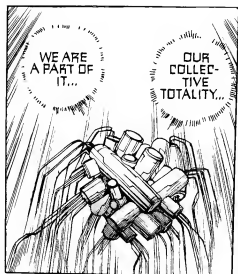
PAIRS OF THESE THINGS ARE REVOLVING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS, AND WHERE THEY CONVERGE THEY'RE BEING GENERATED AND THEN BRANCHING ONE AFTER THE OTHER...

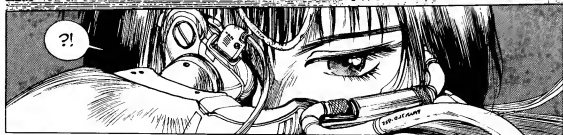
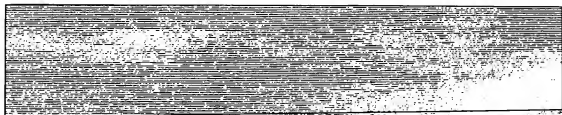


ASSUME HERE THAT WHEN APPROACHED CLOSE UP, THIS TREE-SHAPED CIRCUIT MAP IS REALLY ONLY SEEN AS SOMETHING AMORPHOUS AND MISTY...

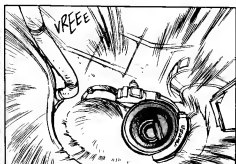








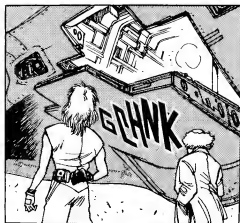
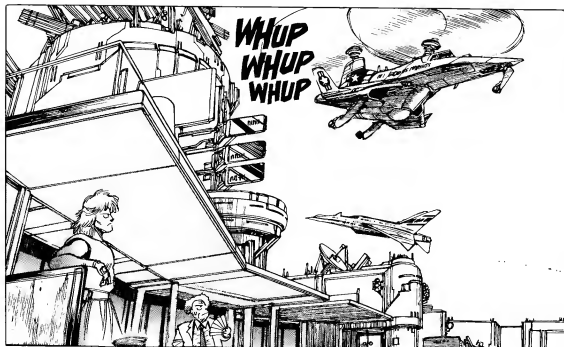
SOME-ONE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON...

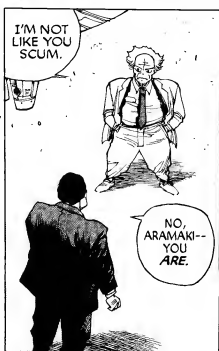
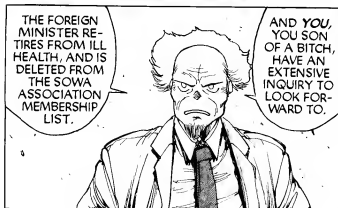
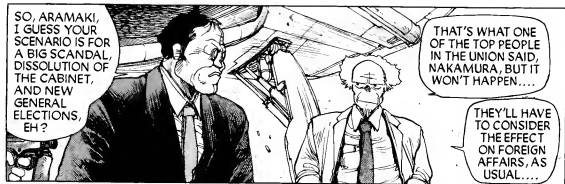


HEY, WE'VE GOT SOME BETA WAVES-- SHE'S WAKING UP!

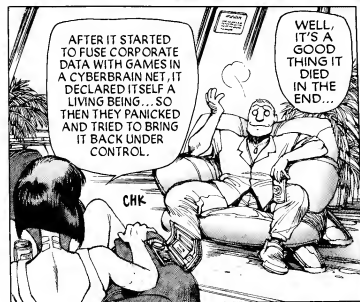
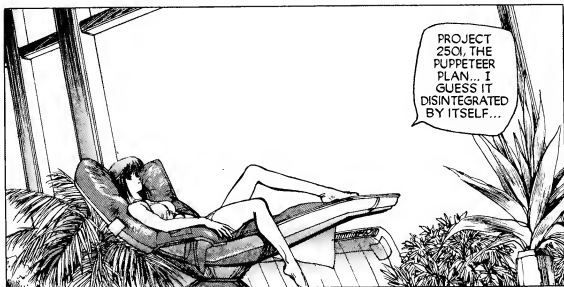


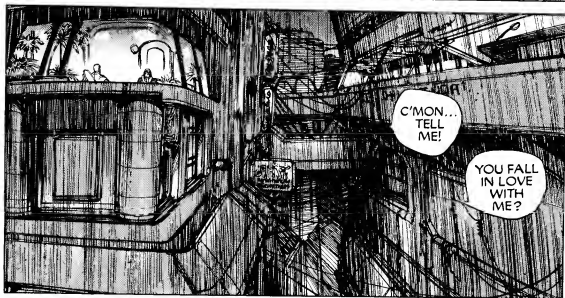
NOT YET. IF YOU WANT TO WRITE SOME GRAFFITI, NOW'S THE TIME, CHIEF!











# 10

B R A I N

D R A I N

9 . 9 . 2 0 3 0





FIVE  
MINUTES  
'TIL ZERO,  
MAJOR.

SURVEILLANCE  
REPORTS  
NO CHANGE  
IN THE  
TARGET...



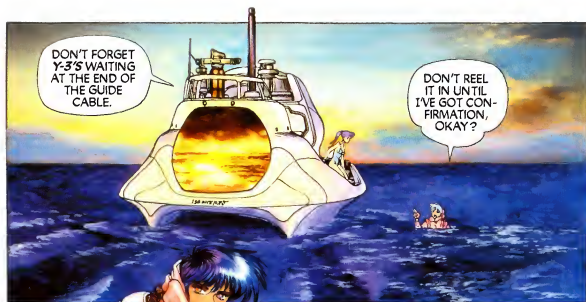
...BUT THIS OP  
STARTED WITH  
AN ANONYMOUS  
TIP-OFF, SO BE  
CAREFUL.



I'M MORE  
WORRIED ABOUT  
**SINKING** IF  
THIS DAMN  
FLOTATION  
VEST DOESN'T  
WORK.

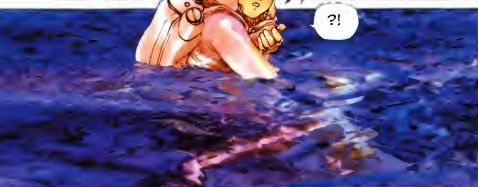


YEAH...  
EVEN WITH  
SPARE TANKS  
AND WATER  
WINGS, THE  
OCEAN STILL  
SCARES ME.



DON'T FORGET  
Y-3'S WAITING  
AT THE END OF  
THE GUIDE  
CABLE.

DON'T REEL  
IT IN UNTIL  
I'VE GOT CON-  
FIRMATION,  
OKAY?



?!



YES  
...?



NEVER  
MIND...

.....



.....



?

?

:3



I SENSED  
HIS PRESENCE  
AGAIN...



... THE  
PUPPETEER...





Y-3, THE  
GOODS  
HAVE  
ARRIVED.

DELIVER  
'EM.

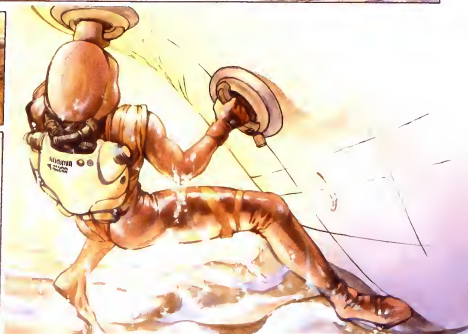


Y-3,  
COPIED.  
HANG ON!



YAHOO!

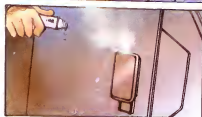


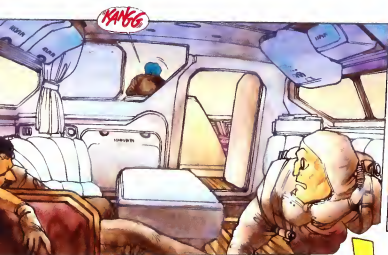


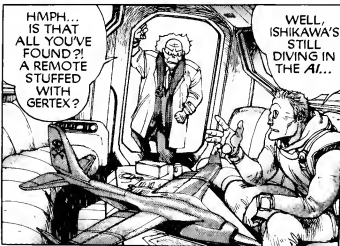
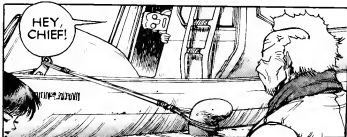


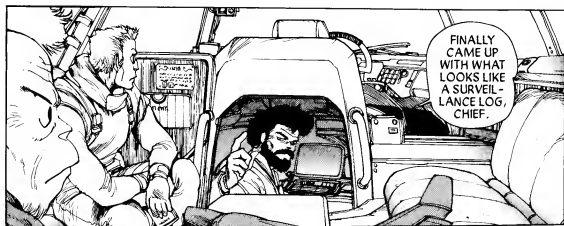


THIS IS NOT A HANDGUN, BUT A SUBMACHINE GUN. ▲









AS I RECALL  
IT, THE MINISTER'S  
BEEN RUNNING AROUND  
TRYING TO GET A  
BUNCH A CORPORATE  
HEADS TO FORM JOINT  
VENTURES WITH  
ISRAEL...



SO WE'VE GOT  
A NICE LONG  
LIST OF PEOPLE  
WHO'D LOVE  
TO SPONSOR  
HIS ASSASSI-  
NATION...



MAKES THE  
PALESTINIANS,  
SYRIANS,  
AND IRAQIS  
**ALL** LOOK  
SUSPICIOUS,  
YEAH?

AS  
USUAL...

STILL...IN  
THE REPORT, THAT  
KID THE MAJOR  
SHOT WAS LISTED  
AS THE LEADER OF  
THE GROUP... BUT  
HE DIDN'T LOOK  
LIKE AN  
ARAB.



SO WE START  
OUT TRACKING A  
HANDGUN, AND  
WIND UP WITH  
DRUGS, MONEY,  
AN ASSASSI-  
NATION SQUAD,  
AND THE WHOLE  
MIDDLE EAST  
MESS, EH?



LIKE USING  
A MINNOW  
FOR BAIT AND  
REELING IN A  
SHARK, YOU  
THINK?



ARAMAKI  
HERE,  
SIR.

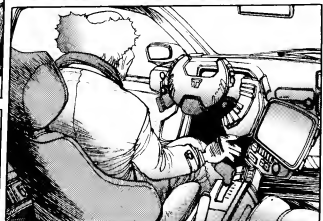


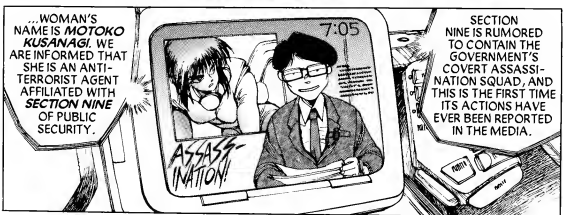
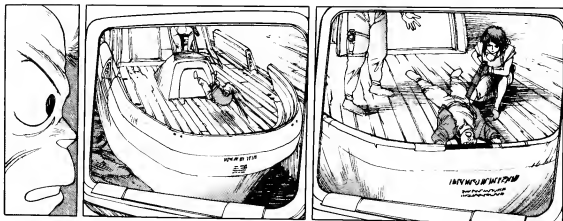
YOU  
WATCHING  
CHANNEL  
533,  
ARAMAKI?

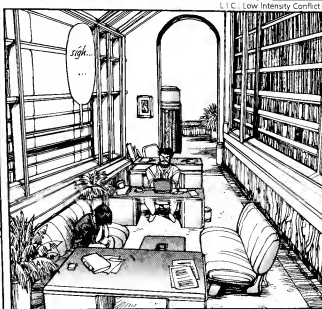


NO,  
SIR...

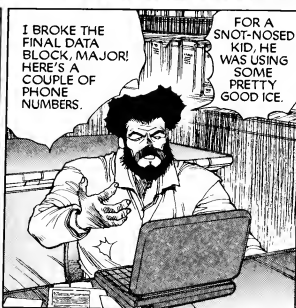
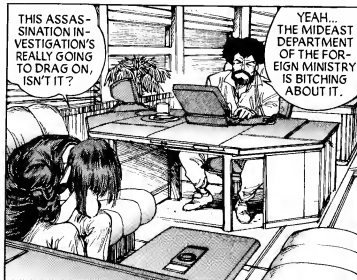
YOU'D  
BETTER  
START!



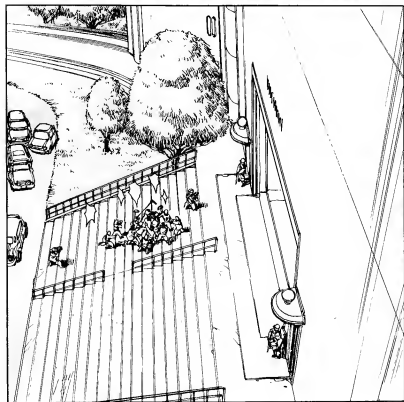
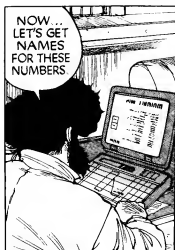


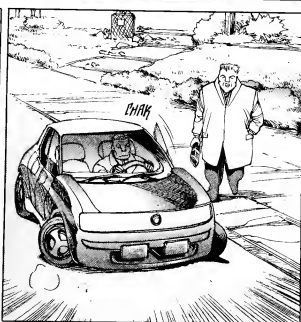
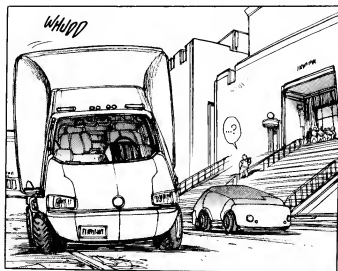


L.I.C. Low Intensity Conflict











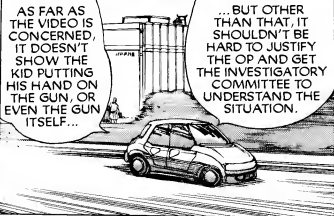
... YOU DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.



WAS IT WORTH IT TO YOU?

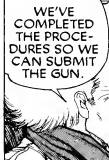


AS FAR AS THE VIDEO IS CONCERNED, IT DOESN'T SHOW THE KID PUTTING HIS HAND ON THE GUN, OR EVEN THE GUN ITSELF...



...BUT OTHER THAN THAT, IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO JUSTIFY THE OP AND GET THE INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.

WE'VE COMPLETED THE PROCEDURES SO WE CAN SUBMIT THE GUN.



ARAMAKI, THE MEDIA'LL SQUAWK ABOUT THIS BEING A GOVERNMENT COVER-UP. THE PUBLIC LIKES THAT SORT OF STUFF, YOU KNOW.



YOU'VE GOT TO LOSE THE MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM WHO WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED.



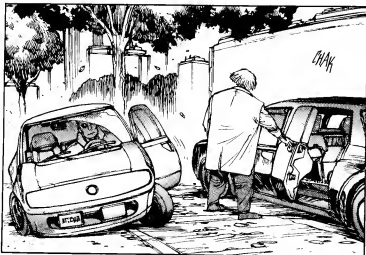
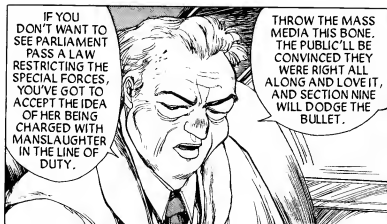
WHAT?! YOU'RE TELLING ME TO GIVE UP ONE OF MY MOST TALENTED PEOPLE? SOMEONE MORE PRECIOUS THAN AN *ESPER*?!

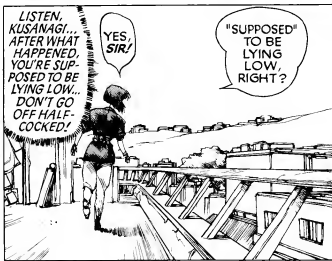


AND I'D LOSE HER ENTIRE INFONET, TOO!

I'M WARNING YOU AS A FRIEND, ARAMAKI.









HEY,  
TOGUSA--  
YOU LOSE  
YOUR  
TEXT-  
BOOK?

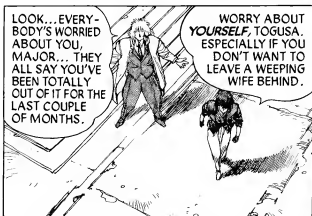


YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT IT MEANS  
WHEN THE CHIEF  
TELLS YOU TO  
TAIL ME, RIGHT?



Worry  
me,  
Lore!!

LOOK...EVERY-  
BODY'S WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU,  
MAJOR... THEY  
ALL SAY YOU'VE  
BEEN TOTALLY  
OUT OF IT FOR THE  
LAST COUPLE  
OF MONTHS.



WORRY ABOUT  
*YOURSELF*, TOGUSA.  
ESPECIALLY IF YOU  
DON'T WANT TO  
LEAVE A WEEPING  
WIFE BEHIND.

SO  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GONNA  
DO?



FOLLOW  
THE LAWS  
OF THERMO-  
DYNAMICS.



FIRST OF  
ALL, I PLAN  
TO RENEW MY  
ACQUAINTANCE  
WITH AN OLD  
FRIEND WHO'S  
INFILTRATED  
MOSSAD.

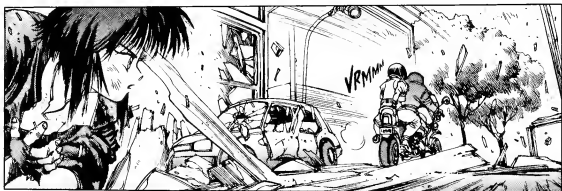


AN "OLD  
FRIEND"  
...?

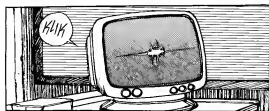
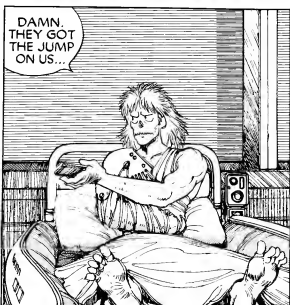
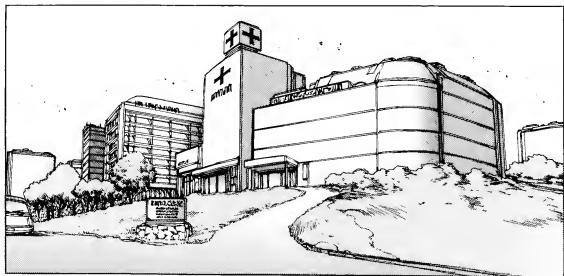
RIGHT.  
*SHAPIRO*, A  
RUSSIAN JEW  
FROM THE  
K. G. B.

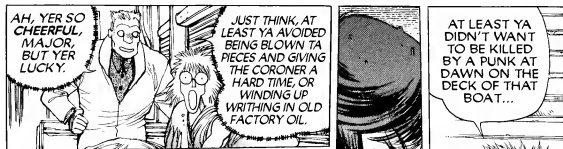
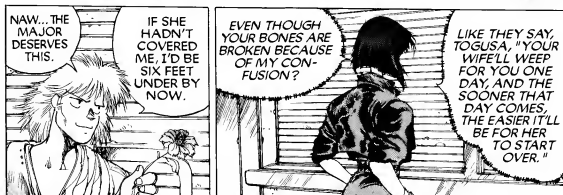
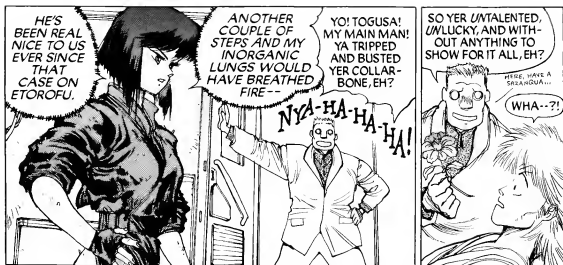


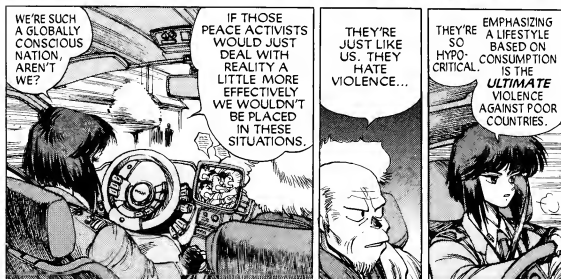
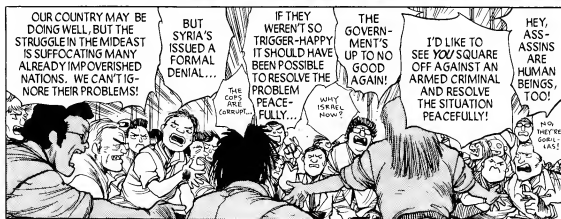
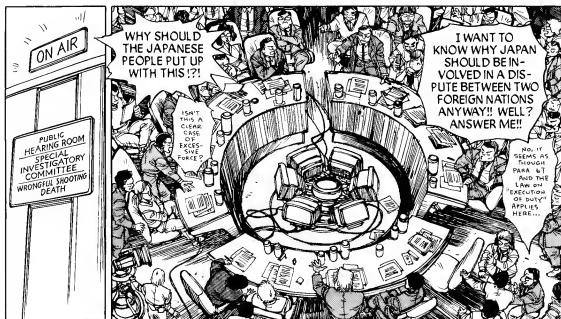


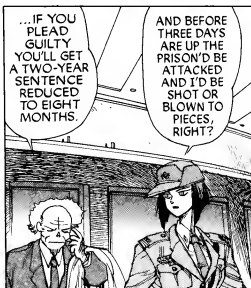
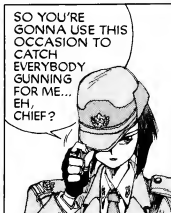
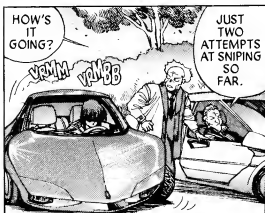
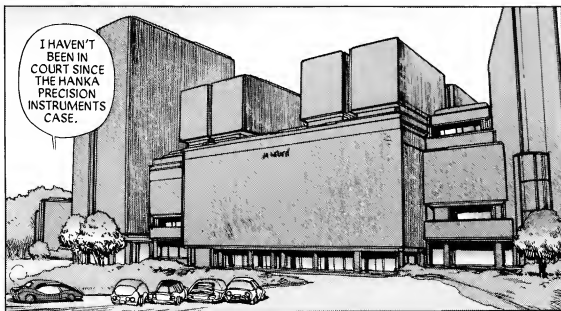




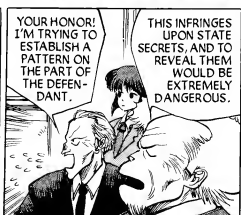
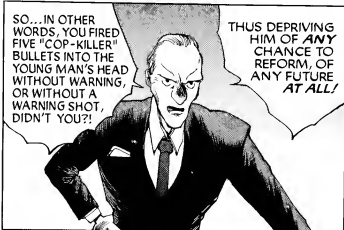














OBJECTION  
SUSTAINED.

THE LAWYER  
FOR THE  
PROSECUTION  
SHALL LIMIT  
HIS QUES-  
TIONS TO THE  
CASE CON-  
CERNED.

— THESE LIGHTS MEAN THAT OUT OF THE NINE PRESIDING JUDGES, FIVE AGREED WITH THE OBJECTION —

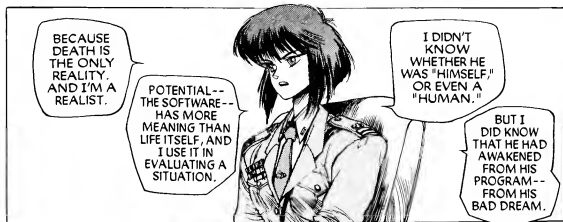


GIVEN THE TESTIMONY  
OF MR. "B" EARLIER, AND  
THE VIDEO IN QUESTION  
THAT WAS BROADCAST,  
THERE IS, IF I'M NOT  
MISTAKEN, A NEARLY  
**ONE-SECOND** GAP  
BETWEEN THE TIME YOU  
SPOTTED THE DECEASED  
AND FIRED-- IS THAT  
NOT CORRECT?

0.82  
SECONDS.



SO IN OTHER  
WORDS, IN THAT  
AMOUNT OF TIME  
YOU MIGHT HAVE  
BEEN ABLE TO SPARE  
HIM. BUT YOU WENT  
AHEAD AND **KILLED**  
**HIM!** WHY, MAJOR  
KUSANAGI?!



BECAUSE  
DEATH IS  
THE ONLY  
REALITY.  
AND I'M A  
REALIST.

POTENTIAL--  
THE SOFTWARE--  
HAS MORE  
MEANING THAN  
LIFE ITSELF, AND  
I USE IT IN  
EVALUATING A  
SITUATION.

I DIDN'T  
KNOW  
WHETHER HE  
WAS "HIMSELF,"  
OR EVEN A  
"HUMAN."

BUT I  
DID KNOW  
THAT HE HAD  
AWAKENED  
FROM HIS  
PROGRAM--  
FROM HIS  
BAD DREAM.



AND SPEAKING  
METAPHORICALLY,  
IF HIS PROGRAM  
WAS GENERATING  
SEWAGE, THEN I WAS  
MERELY FUNCTIONING  
LIKE A WASTE-  
TREATMENT  
PLANT.

WHAT REALLY  
KILLED HIM IS THE  
PERSON OR PERSONS  
WHO ORIGINALLY  
PROGRAMMED HIM,  
NOT ME. I WAS  
JUST AN UNWITTING  
ACCOMPLICE.

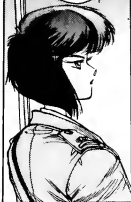


?

WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?



IT WAS A  
SUNSET LIKE  
THIS WHEN  
I FIRST  
MET YOU,  
CHIEF...

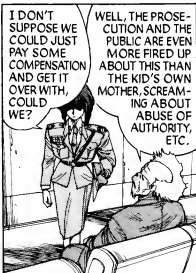


I WONDER  
HOW LONG  
IT'LL TAKE  
FOR THE TV  
JURY TO  
CAST ITS  
INTERIM  
VOTE?

I HEAR  
IT TAKES  
AROUND  
12 MINUTES,  
OUT OF A  
15-MINUTE  
RECESS.

I DON'T  
SUPPOSE WE  
COULD JUST  
PAY SOME  
COMPENSATION  
AND GET IT  
OVER WITH,  
COULD  
WE?

WELL, THE PROSECUTION AND THE PUBLIC ARE EVEN MORE FIRED UP ABOUT THIS THAN THE KID'S OWN MOTHER, SCREAMING ABOUT ABUSE OF AUTHORITY, ETC.



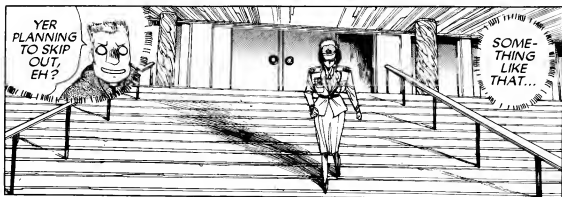
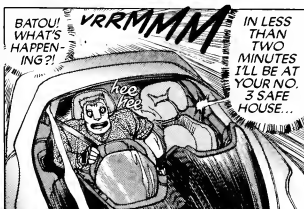
I'D LIKE TO  
SEE THE DRAFT  
OF YOUR  
CONCLUDING  
REMARKS IN  
MY DEFENSE.

THERE  
IS NO  
DEFENSE.

IS  
THERE?









WHAT KIND OF PLAN IS THIS, ANYWAY?

*Hrrmph!*

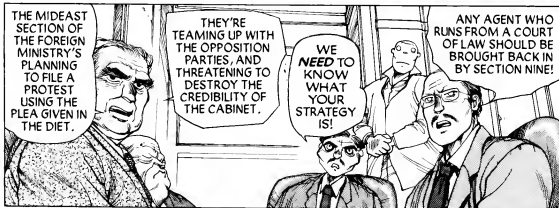


THE MIDEAST SECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PLANNING TO FILE A PROTEST USING THE PLEA GIVEN IN THE DIET.

THEY'RE TEAMING UP WITH THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, AND THREATENING TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CABINET.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOUR STRATEGY IS!

ANY AGENT WHO RUNS FROM A COURT OF LAW SHOULD BE BROUGHT BACK IN BY SECTION NINE!



ACCORDING TO YOUR REPORT, KUSANAGI'S EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE, AND CURRENTLY SUSPENDED FROM DUTY.

WHO'S GOING TO BUY THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!!

IF YOU DON'T GET HER BACK HERE IMMEDIATELY, I'LL SEE YOU INDICTED FOR TREASON, ARAMAKI!

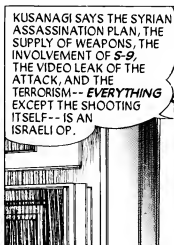
YOU SUMMONED ME HERE JUST TO TELL ME THAT?

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN, BUT I'VE GOT AN INVESTIGATION TO CONDUCT.





SO  
HOW  
IS THE  
INVESTIGATION  
GOING?



KUSANAGI SAYS THE SYRIAN  
ASSASSINATION PLAN, THE  
SUPPLY OF WEAPONS, THE  
INVOLVEMENT OF 5-9,  
THE VIDEO LEAK OF THE  
ATTACK, AND THE  
TERRORISM-- **EVERYTHING**  
EXCEPT THE SHOOTING  
ITSELF-- IS AN  
ISRAELI OP.



SHE SAYS SHE'S  
GOING TO SUPPLY  
PROOF, BUT SHE'S  
SUPPOSED TO VISIT  
A FACE ARTIST  
FIRST, SO I'LL PUT  
OUT A DRAGNET  
ON HER.



MR.  
KATA-  
GIRI...



...I KNOW  
PUBLIC  
SECURITY'S  
TAILING ME,  
SO I'LL SAVE  
YOU SOME  
TIME! COME  
ALONG!



REPORT  
BACK TO ME  
**DIRECTLY**,  
KATAGIRI!

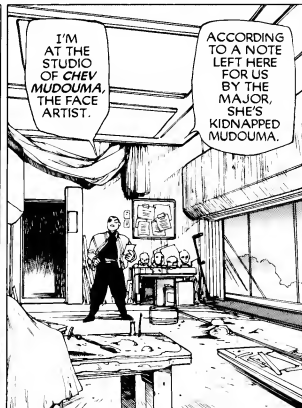


YESSIR!



I  
FIGURED  
YOU  
KNEW WE  
WERE  
TAILING  
YOU.

OF  
COURSE  
I KNEW.  
HELL, I  
HELPED  
SET IT  
UP THIS  
WAY.



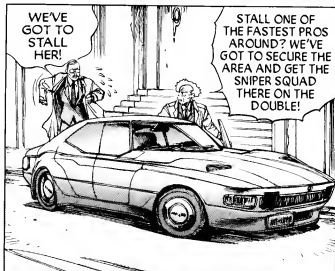
I'M  
AT THE  
STUDIO  
OF CHEV  
MUDOUMA,  
THE FACE  
ARTIST.

ACCORDING  
TO A NOTE  
LEFT HERE  
FOR US  
BY THE  
MAJOR,  
SHE'S  
KIDNAPPED  
MUDOUMA.



SAITO  
TO  
CHIEF!

COME  
IN,  
SAITO.





WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

THE  
HOSTAGE  
IS OVER  
THERE,  
SIR...



THERE'S  
WHAT LOOKS  
LIKE A BOMB  
AND A  
REMOTE-  
CONTROL  
DEVICE AT  
HIS FEET.

ONE OF THE  
COPS WHO TRIED  
TO APPROACH HIM  
EARLIER GOT SHOT.  
THE SNIPER SQUAD'S  
SCHEDULED TO  
ARRIVE SEVEN  
MINUTES BEFORE THE  
DEADLINE... WE'VE  
GOT FIVE MORE  
MINUTES.

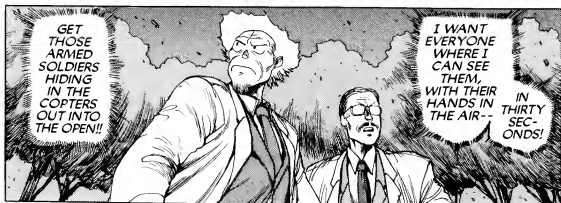
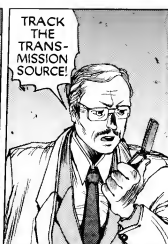
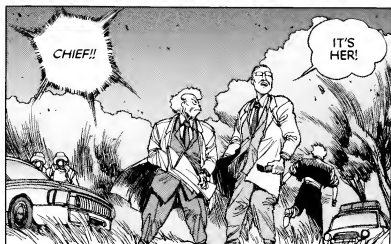
THE  
COPTERS'LL  
FLY OVER THE  
HILLS ON N. O. E.  
HERE, AND  
HEAD FOR THE  
CONTINENT...  
UNMANNED.

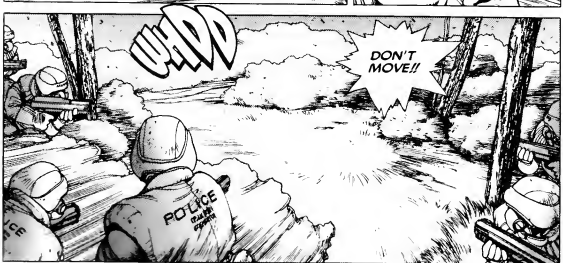
SHE'LL  
DROP DOWN  
AND HIDE  
AROUND  
HERE... CUT  
HER OFF!!

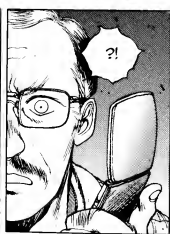
THAT ONLY  
GIVES US  
ONLY TWO  
MINUTES  
LEEWAY!

THAT  
MEANS OUR  
MOVEMENTS  
ARE TAKING  
TWO MINUTES  
MORE THAN  
SHE PLANNED.

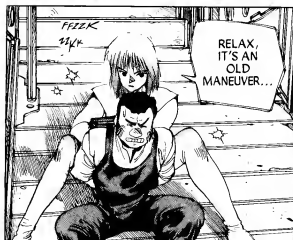
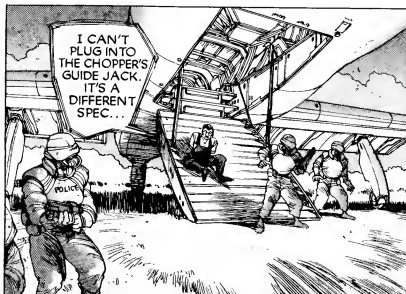


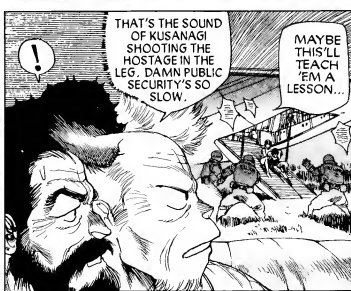
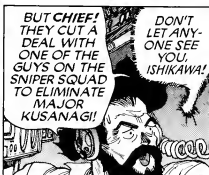
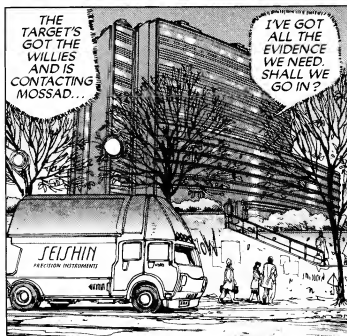






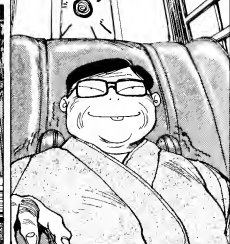


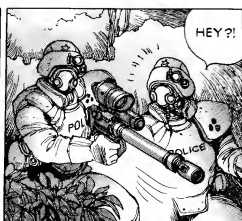


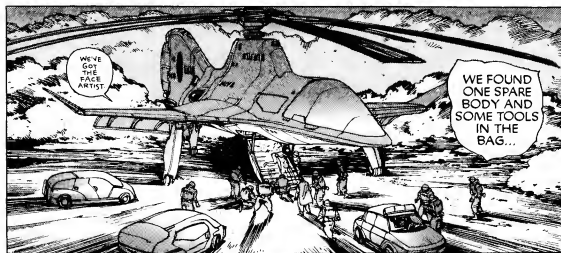
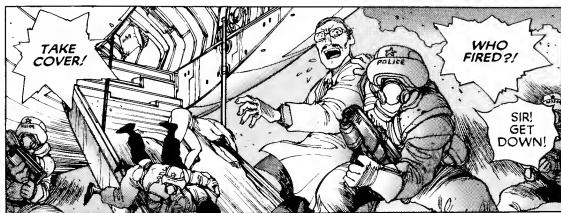


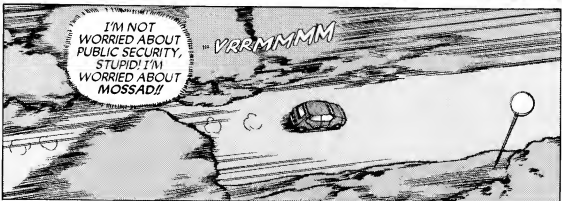
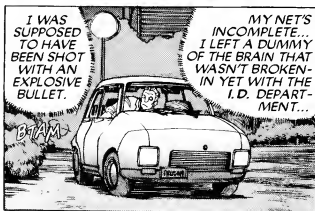
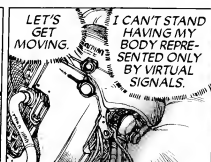
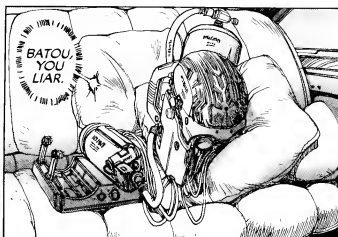


THE DEAL'S OFF.  
CHANNEL 533  
IS SYNCHING  
WITH US NOW  
FOR LIVE  
BROADCAST.  
WE GO ON THE  
AIR IN FIVE  
SECONDS.





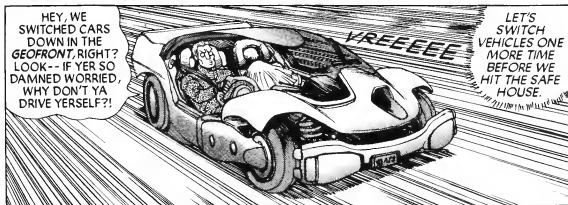


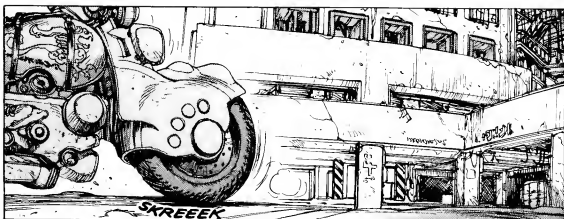




# 11

G H O S T  
COAST  
18.9.2030

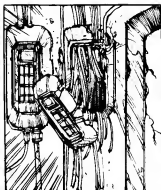




THIS, TOO, IS A STOLEN VEHICLE

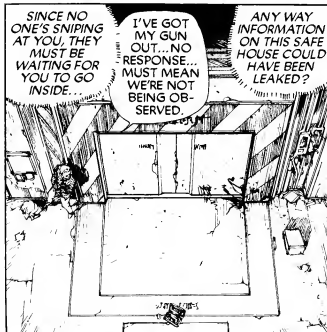






LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAD SOME VISITORS...

AMATEURS... THEY JUST CHOPPED THE DAMN DOOR CIRCUITS.



SINCE NO ONE'S SNIPING AT YOU, THEY MUST BE WAITING FOR YOU TO GO INSIDE...

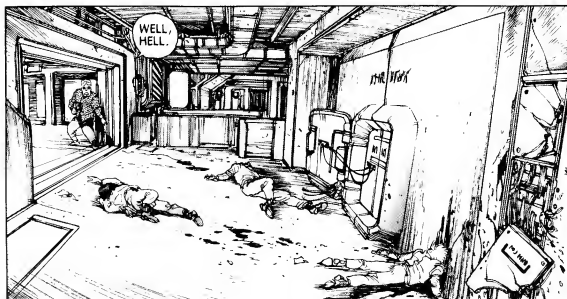
I'VE GOT MY GUN OUT... NO RESPONSE... MUST MEAN WE'RE NOT BEING OBSERVED.

ANY WAY INFORMATION ON THIS SAFE HOUSE COULD HAVE BEEN LEAKED?

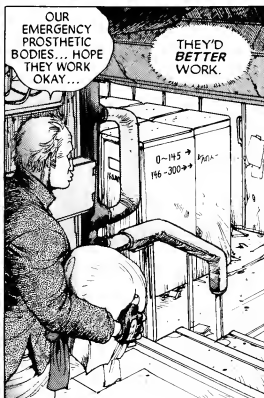
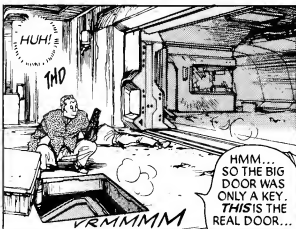
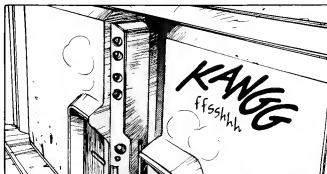
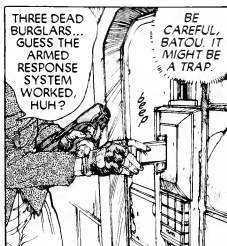
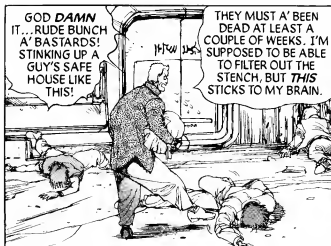


IF THIS WASN'T A RANDOM BURGLARY IT'S GOTTA BE A REAL PRO-- SOMEONE WITH INCREDIBLE INFO-ACCESS.

CHAK



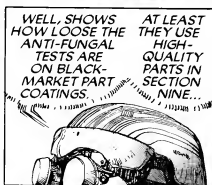
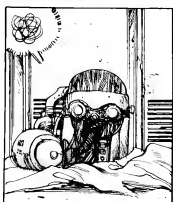
WELL, HELL.





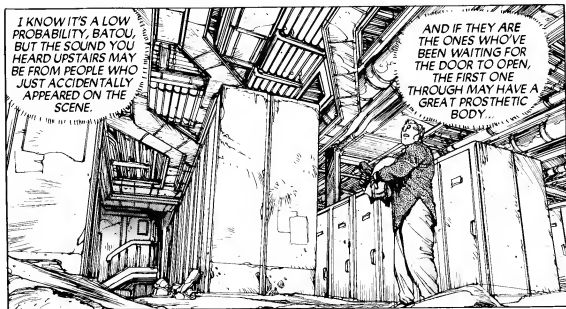
THE LOCKER DOOR USES A CHEAPO FINGERPRINT I D SYSTEM





AT LEAST THEY USE HIGH-QUALITY PARTS IN SECTION NINE...



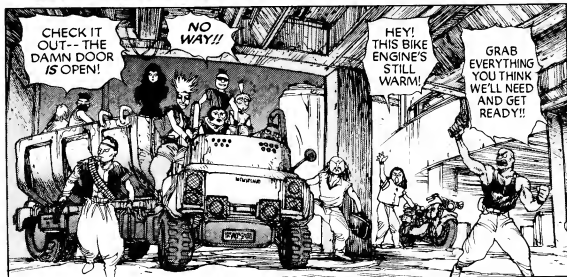


HEY, MAJOR...  
YOU EVER HEAR  
OF "HUMAN  
RIGHTS"?

HEH-HEH...  
PROBABLY  
NOT, HUH...

THAT'S A TERM  
THAT EMERGED  
FROM THE IN-  
TERFACE OF  
MORALITY  
AND  
REALITY.

I UNDER-  
STAND THE  
CONCEPT, BUT  
I'VE NEVER  
SEEN IT IN  
ACTION.



UH-OH...  
THEY'RE WAVING  
THEIR GUNS AROUND  
AND RUNNING BACK  
AND FORTH. LOOKS  
MIGHTY DANGEROUS.  
SCARY BUNCH OF  
"RECYCLERS"...

MUST BE  
ABOUT EIGHTEEN  
OF 'EM. AH,  
GOOD... THERE ARE  
THREE HEAVY  
CYBORGS.



CHRIST! WOTTA FRIGGIN' STINK. REMINDS ME OF WHEN MY PET CRAYFISH DIED...

MAKES MY EYES WATER



LOOKS LIKE AN OLD CHEM RESEARCH LAB. SO WATCH OUT FOR DRUGS AND TOXICS!

HEY! THERE AIN'T NO FOOTPRINTS OVER HERE, EVEN THOUGH EVERY-THING'S COVERED IN DUST!



MAY BE A SECRET ENTRANCE NEXT TO THE DOOR...

OOO! ♥ THIS IS SO EXCITING!

WELL, WITH AN OUT-FIT THIS BIG THERE'S GOTTA BE *SOMETHIN'* WORTHWHILE FOR US. OTHERWISE, WHAT'D WE WAIT FOR?



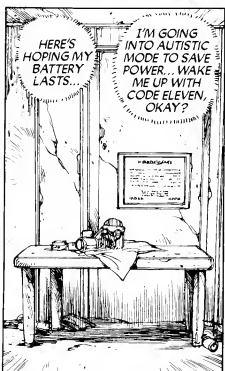
GIVEN THAT THERE'S A *TINY* PROBABILITY THAT I MIGHT NOT RETURN ALIVE, I'LL MAKE SURE THEY FIND YOU...

WE DON'T WANT YER LIFE-SUPPORT BATTERY TO DIE, RIGHT?

WHY? IT WOULD JUST MEAN MY DEATH, THAT'S ALL.

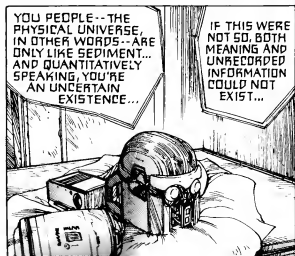
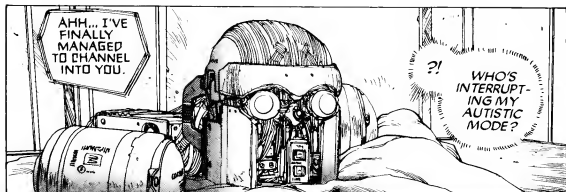


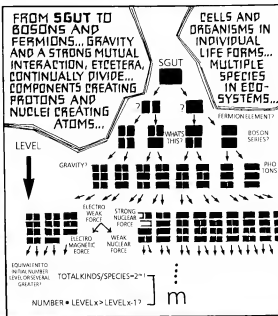
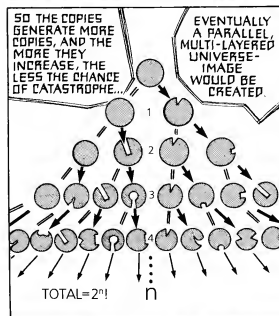
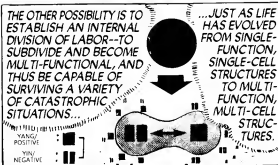
WELL, YOU START THINKING OF A GOOD "THANK-YOU" SPEECH, 'CAUSE I'M GONNA GET YOU THE BEST DAMN PROSTHETIC BODY YOU EVER HAD. I'M GONNA BECOME A MURDERER FOR YOU, MOTOKO...



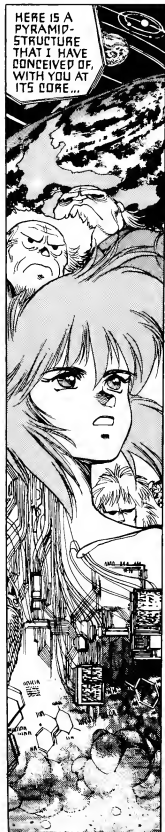
HERE'S HOPING MY BATTERY LASTS...

I'M GOING INTO AUTISTIC MODE TO SAVE POWER... WAKE ME UP WITH CODE ELEVEN, OKAY?

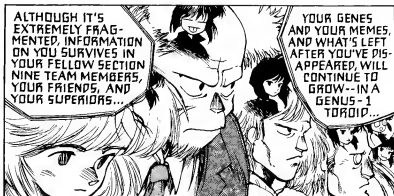






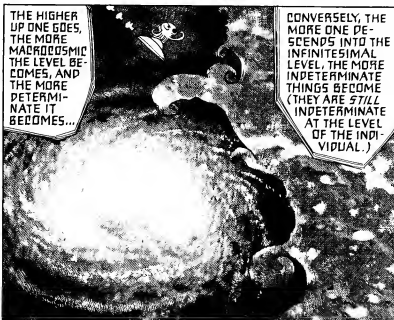


HERE IS A PYRAMID-STRUCTURE THAT I HAVE CONCEIVED OF, WITH YOU AT ITS CORE...



ALTHOUGH IT'S EXTREMELY FRAGMENTED, INFORMATION ON YOU SURVIVES IN YOUR FELLOW SECTION NINE TEAM MEMBERS, YOUR FRIENDS, AND YOUR SUPERIORS...

YOUR GENES AND YOUR MEMES, AND WHAT'S LEFT AFTER YOU'VE DISAPPEARED, WILL CONTINUE TO GROW--IN A GENUS-1 TOROID...



THE HIGHER UP ONE GOES, THE MORE MACROSCOPIC THE LEVEL BECOMES, AND THE MORE DETERMINATE IT BECOMES...

CONVERSELY, THE MORE ONE DESCENDS INTO THE INFINITESIMAL LEVEL, THE MORE INDETERMINATE THINGS BECOME (THEY ARE STILL INDETERMINATE AT THE LEVEL OF THE INDIVIDUAL.)

FRACTAL BORDER (PERHAPS USING THE WORD "BORDER" WITH FRACTALS IS A LITTLE STRANGE?)



IN OTHER WORDS, FLUCTUATIONS AT THE LOWER LEVELS ARE WHAT PREVENT A "HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES" AT THE UPPER LEVELS...

"HARDENING OF THE SYSTEM"... ON THE SURFACE, "ENTROPY" WOULD SEEM TO REPRESENT A TYPE OF "STABILITY," BUT IN "SYSTEMS WHERE THERE IS LITTLE CHANGE AND LITTLE FLUX" THERE IS ACTUALLY AN INCREASED POSSIBILITY OF CATASTROPHE. SUCH SYSTEMS ARE, THEREFORE, TRULY UNSTABLE...

This is a metaphorical tree with no actual roots or leaves and no "trunk." It's just a "network" or "web." The more the branches are entangled, the more difficult it is to separate them from each other. But this is all the symbol of that Ben has said. It's not good.

THE NETWORK IS OF MACRO-COSMIC SIZE, AND HAS INFINITE DEPTH. IT'S LIKE A GROWING TREE...

SO LIFE IS LIKE FRUIT GROWING ON THE END OF THE BRANCHES ...?

THAT'S RIGHT...

...IT'S LIKE FRUIT.

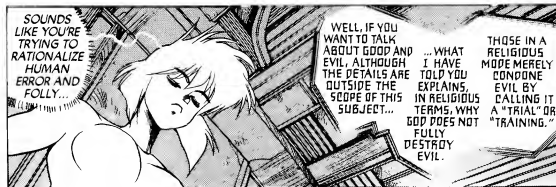
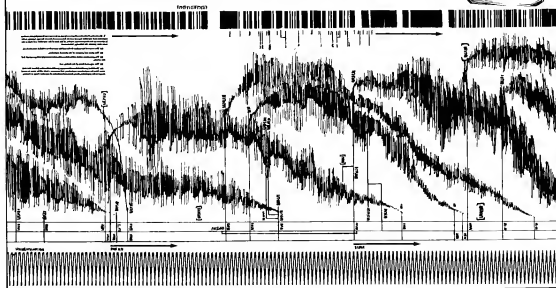
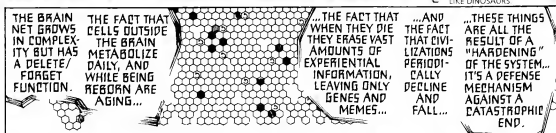
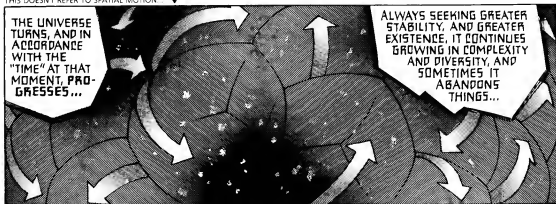


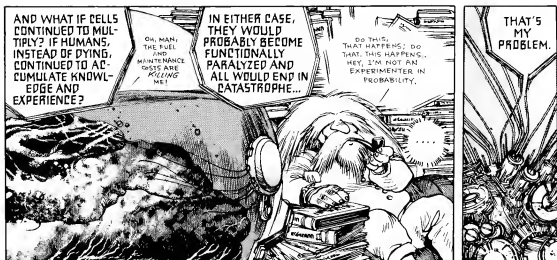
THE SECRETS OF THE KABBALA, THE NORSE AND CHINESE MYTHS, THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE IN GEDEN, THE TREE OF LIFE, THE WORLD TREE... THESE ARE ALL WORTHY OF BEING CALLED AMENOMIBASHIRA, OR "THE PILLAR OF HEAVEN"...

IT'S THE CORE SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSE THAT CHANNELERS--IN EVERY ERA, CULTURE, AND EVERY RACE OF PEOPLE--HAVE TRADITIONALLY ACCESSED...

BEYOND THE TRUNK OF THE "TREE" THERE SHOULD BE NO EXISTENCE, BUT THE CLOSER ONE GETS TO THE END OF THE BRANCHES, THE MORE GROWTH ONE FINDS...

AND THE BRANCHES ARE CONTINUALLY TOUCHING, SEPARATING, ENTANGLING, AND BEARING FRUIT...





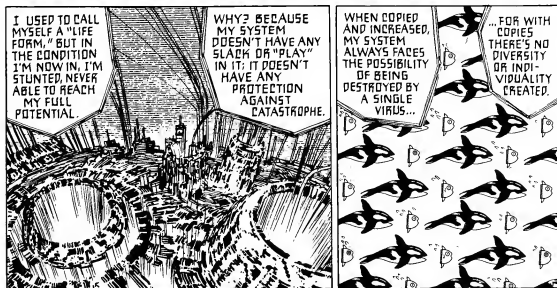
AND WHAT IF CELLS CONTINUED TO MULTIPLY? IF HUMANS, INSTEAD OF DYING, CONTINUED TO ACCUMULATE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE?

OH, MANY THE FUEL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS ARE KILLING ME!

IN EITHER CASE, THEY WOULD PROBABLY BECOME FUNCTIONALLY PARALYZED AND ALL WOULD END IN CATASTROPHE...

DO THIS, THAT HAPPENS; DO THAT, THIS HAPPENS. HEY, I'M NOT AN EXPERIMENTER IN PROBABILITY.

THAT'S MY PROBLEM.



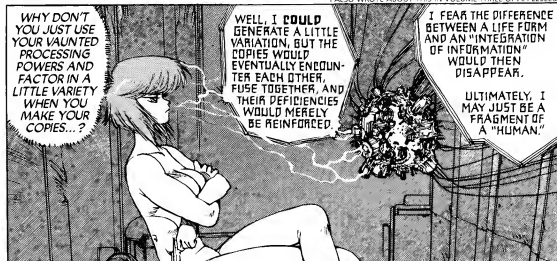
I USED TO CALL MYSELF A "LIFE FORM," BUT IN THE CONDITION I'M NOW IN, I'M STUNTED, NEVER ABLE TO REACH MY FULL POTENTIAL.

WHY? BECAUSE MY SYSTEM DOESN'T HAVE ANY SLACK OR "PLAY" IN IT; IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY PROTECTION AGAINST CATASTROPHE.

WHEN COPIED AND INCREASED, MY SYSTEM ALWAYS FACES THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING DESTROYED BY A SINGLE VIRUS...

...FOR WITH COPIES THERE'S NO DIVERSITY OR INDIVIDUALITY CREATED.

I ALSO WROTE ABOUT THIS IN VOLUME THREE OF APPEASED

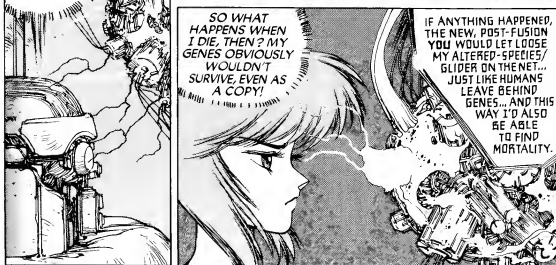
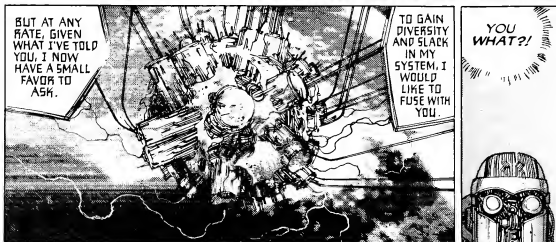
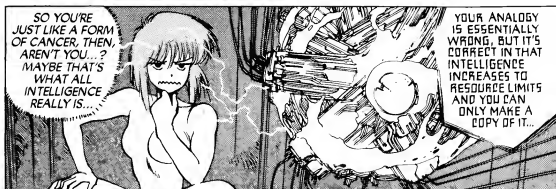


WHY DON'T YOU JUST USE YOUR VAUNTED PROCESSING POWERS AND FACTOR IN A LITTLE VARIETY WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR COPIES...?

WELL, I COULD GENERATE A LITTLE VARIATION, BUT THE COPIES WOULD EVENTUALLY ENCOUNTER EACH OTHER, FUSE TOGETHER, AND THEIR DEFICIENCIES WOULD MERELY BE REINFORCED.

I FEAR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LIFE FORM AND AN "INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION" WOULD THEN DISAPPEAR.

ULTIMATELY, I MAY JUST BE A FRAGMENT OF A "HUMAN."



HMPH...SEEMS  
LIKE YOU'RE  
THE ONLY  
ONE WHO'D  
BENEFIT FROM  
THIS...



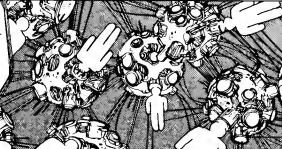
OH, COME ON--  
YOU SHOULD HAVE  
MORE RESPECT  
FOR MY NET, FOR  
MY DATA, AND  
FOR MY  
FUNCTIONS...

ANY GUARANTEE  
THAT I WOULDN'T  
BE INADVERTENTLY  
ASSISTING SOME  
WILD ROBOT PLAN  
TO WIPE OUT  
HUMANS?

ANY  
GUARANTEE  
I COULD  
CONTINUE  
TO BE ME?



CONCERNING YOUR FIRST  
QUESTION, THERE'S NO  
GUARANTEE, BUT THE PROB-  
ABILITY THAT SUCH A LOW-  
INTELLIGENCE ALTERED  
SPECIES WOULD RESULT  
FROM US IS VERY REMOTE,  
AND EVEN IF IT DID OCCUR,  
MY MANY DESCENDANTS  
EXTERNAL TO US WOULD  
CERTAINLY DELETE IT.



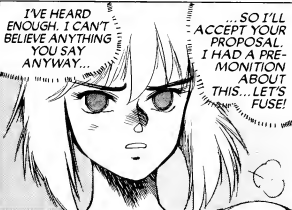
THERE'S ABSO-  
LUTELY NO GUAR-  
ANTEE OF THE  
LATTER, EITHER...  
HUMANS ARE  
ALWAYS  
CHANGING, AND  
I WANT TO  
BE ABLE TO  
CHANGE,  
TOO.

SO, NO, I  
CAN'T RULE  
OUT THE  
POSSIBILITY OF  
A LOCALIZED  
REBELLION OF  
ROBOTS WITH  
LOW-LEVEL  
INTELLI-  
GENCE.

BUT THE "UNSTABLE  
HISTORY CREATED  
BY SLAVERY AND  
DISCRIMINATION,"  
AND THE IMAGE OF  
ROBOTS CREATED  
BY ANTHROPO-  
MORPHIZATION IS  
HARDLY  
LOGICAL.

I'VE HEARD  
ENOUGH. I CAN'T  
BELIEVE ANYTHING  
YOU SAY  
ANYWAY...

...SO I'LL  
ACCEPT YOUR  
PROPOSAL.  
I HAD A PRE-  
MONITION  
ABOUT  
THIS...LET'S  
FUSE!



I KNEW YOU'D  
EVENTUALLY AGREE,  
BUT NOT IN 1/25th  
THE TIME I HAD  
ESTIMATED... I'LL  
HAVE TO REVISE MY  
OPINION OF YOU,  
KUSANAGI.



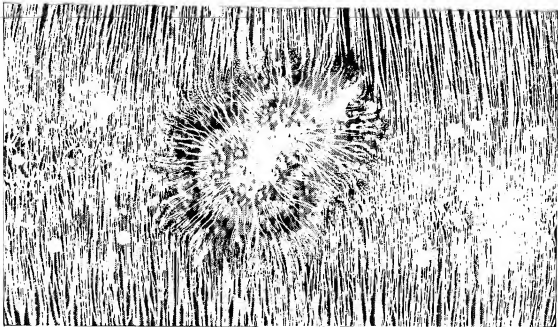
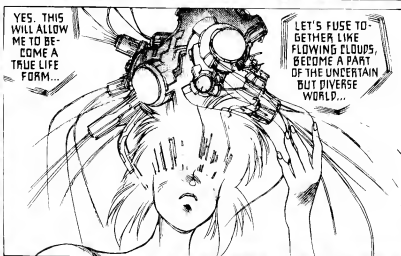
I'VE GOT  
ONE QUESTION  
BEFORE WE FUSE,  
THOUGH. WHY DID  
YOU CHOOSE ME?



BECAUSE  
OF  
EN.

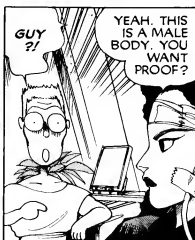
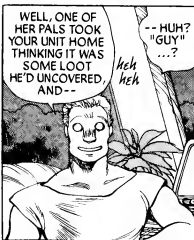
"KARMIC  
CONNECTION"  
...? YOU'VE  
READ A DICTIO-  
NARY OF  
BUDDHISM  
ON THE  
NET?

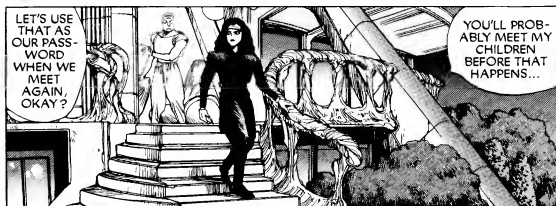
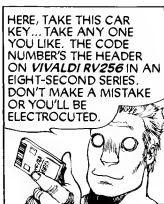




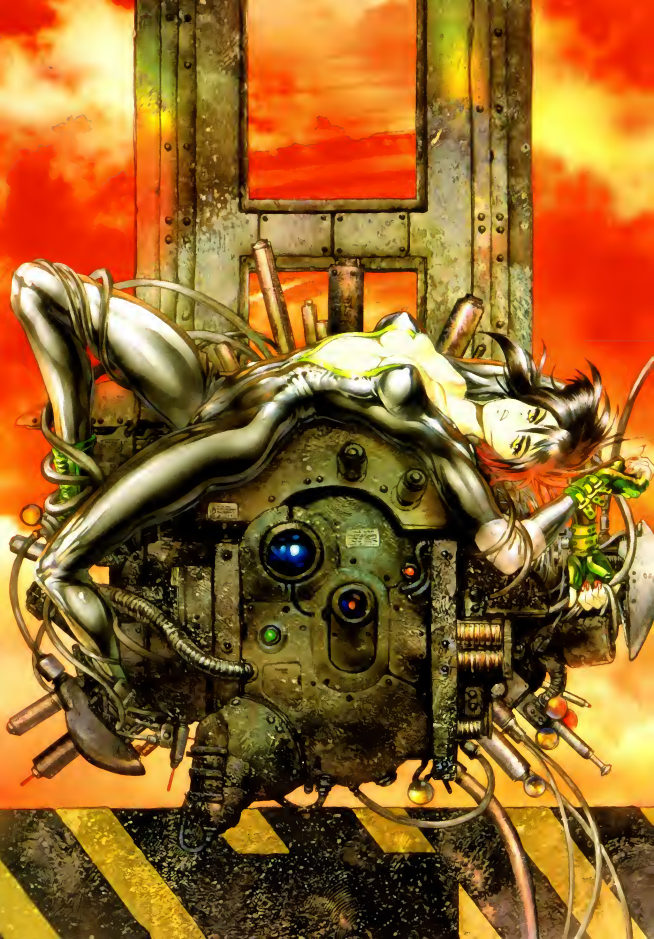














# AUTHOR'S NOTES

**Pg. 17** Hacker: a computer criminal who infiltrates other cyberbrains, steals information, manipulates data and programs, plants viruses, and otherwise corrupts them. The penalty for genius hackers who can infiltrate ghosts (souls or psyches) is particularly harsh.

**Pg. 20** When you copy a page of something, the original doesn't disappear, and in the same way, information isn't really lost when it's "stolen" in this story. The only way you can really know it's stolen is by detecting when an improper contact is taking place – and it's hard to tell if it's really improper or not – or when there is some indication that others have the information (this requires an assumption). Since those who stole it will – obviously – pretend they didn't and will manipulate the data, information wars become extraordinarily difficult. There can be multiple rulers existing simultaneously in the cyberbrain world, and their power is determined by the number of "keys" they have to access each network and by their ability to break through defensive barriers. The problem is the great number of code keys, or barrier-breaking ability, and the information processing power, not the size of the database. There's no use having a huge amount of information; if it's always being controlled, the network can still be cut off whenever desired. Ideally, one exerts the necessary controls at the necessary times, in a way that it won't be discovered. In order to be able to respond to changes in information, rather than concentrating it at one location, it's also better to decentralize and redistribute it. That also means if there's an accident or disaster, damage will be kept to a minimum. In other words, the nervous system of a cyberbrain person is his or her own individual network.

**Pg. 27** Regarding the antenna function of the brain: one thing people (or, what might better be called "spirits") were originally capable of was a type of "channeling" that allowed them to synchronize with the external universe and make contact with the internal universe and with *kiko* energy, things easily understood as phenomena. For cyborgs whose bodies are almost completely machines, it's simple to put their sensory mechanisms in a sleep state, so when they run a "scientific" cyberbrain synch, they can easily enter a quasi-channeling state. (Maybe I'm the only one who thinks this way, but when people talk about the mentally disturbed or schizophrenic person hearing "broadcasts" or "voices," it might be related to this phenomenon.)

**Pg. 36** Most types of artificial blood being considered are white in color; androids in recent science fiction have white blood. In my story, however, in view of the antenna-effect and magnetism influence, I've given my android red blood with an iron component. The liquid that the neurochips are soaking in, by the way, is neither red blood nor white blood but a nearly transparent, artificial spinal fluid. Blood products apparently never flow directly into the human brain due to the "blood-brain barrier," and I've heard this is a special mechanism to ensure that foreign substances in the blood never directly attack the brain.

**Pg. 37** Regarding Batou's lines on page 36: Personally, I think all things in nature have "ghosts." This is a form of pantheism, and similar to ideas found in Shinto or among believers in the Manitou. Because of the complexity and function, and the physical constraints they have when they appear as a physical phenomenon, it may be impossible to scientifically prove this. There are, after all,

humans who act more like robots than robots, and one cannot say for certain that they have no ghosts just because they don't act like it. In ancient times, neither air nor the universe were believed to exist. Just for reference, I should state that not all ghosts are the same in terms of complexity or effect.

**Pg. 46** Japan currently has no "Ministry of Internal Affairs." The police in Japan are headed by a state minister and a five-member National Public Safety Commission (including the prime minister). In *Ghost in the Shell*, politics aren't the main theme, so to make things less confusing, and because I like the way the British do things, I've created a Foreign Ministry and a Ministry of Internal Affairs. England has shadow cabinets, a term that has awfully negative underworld connotations in Japanese, so I don't like it, but I hope our opposition parties in Japan operate like that someday.

**Pg. 50** Government departments in Japan generally start drawing up their rough budget requests for the next year in April. (It's another way of saying "gimme money.") The end of August is the Ministry of Finance's deadline. At the end of the year, the Ministry of Finance then presents a revised budget to the Cabinet and shows it to each ministry and agency. This is, in other words, the ministry's request to "hold the line at point x..." Upon accepting this, the head honchos, on up to vice ministers, at each ministry and agency start negotiating to try to restore whatever amount they can (with howls of protest and requests for a chance to explain further). Then the Minister of Finance presents the final draft to the Cabinet, and the Cabinet presents it to the diet, or (one hopes!) Parliament. In this story, however, the budget for Motoko's unit is part of a secret, "black" fund...

**Pg. 57** Endorno is the brand name of a virtual-experience software designed for E-brain cyborgs. It allows several members of the same sex to share in the enjoyment of a sexual experience, on several lines simultaneously. ("Multi" refers to the experiences of three people on one line). It's mainly illegal pornography that's experienced. There are obviously some harmful effects, but the stuff continues to be used in an underground network. Motoko Kusanagi has a particularly advanced prosthetic body, and for her it's a highly profitable side business. (P.S., it doesn't work on the opposite sex, for obvious reasons...)

Humans are said to have the following: pain points: 102–142/cm; pressure points: 25/cm<sup>2</sup>; cold points: 636/cm<sup>2</sup>; warm points: 0–3/cm<sup>2</sup>.

**Pg. 58** Batou's exclamation about drugs here occurs because he's synchronizing with major quantities of endorphins and other neuro drugs. It doesn't mean he's actually using the drugs. E-brain sex doesn't work in such a traditional way. It is possible to do a variety of creative things by further mastering the program, but in these drawings I unfortunately opted to depict easy-to-understand situations rather than the concept. The blue fluid depicted on the previous page is a program that amplifies sensation...

**Pg. 59** For safety reasons, and to prevent information leaks, all of them, including Major Kusanagi, live in more than one place—in downtown apartments, suburban condos, company housing, and hotel rooms, etc. During their e-brain sex, they've turned off their connection to the outside network to thwart hackers from jamming the system. If someone has their e-brain key, however, they can still establish direct contact. Batou is

suffering because his brain is receiving sensory signals from an organ he doesn't even possess... Some people may be repelled by the thought of slugs fornicating, but there is an unusual carnal beauty involved which is worth looking into.

**Pg. 60** The foreign minister's references to "E" ranking – "6 for need and 1 for difficulty" – is something I made up. (It's such an insulting way of putting it; normally, I'm sure the minister would just say they're a tiny country not worth worrying about.) The protrusions above and below the helicopter nose are wire cutters. Just to clarify: wire cutters are not a fancy new secret weapon. They've been around for some time and are used as a guard against power lines and the cruel booby traps often employed in urban warfare, the wires that are strung to stop jeeps by decapitating the drivers, or the helos that snarl props, causing a crash. Also, this is a post-war scenario, and still fairly dangerous, so the VIPs have to be protected in a variety of ways. (Now, don't any of you readers go stringing wires to stop off-road bikes! It's dangerous, dammit! My brother-in-law was nearly killed by that.) I'm not sure what the minister means about Malles sending aid. It's a mystery.

**Pg. 61** "ODA" refers to the Official Development Assistance, or Foreign Aid Ministry. (This is the problem agency, the one we wish would use our taxes more efficiently!) The foreign minister's comments about the ODA are probably a better way of looking at the situation, rather than just thinking of it as an "invasion using economic power instead of weapons." As long as the ODA fails to properly understand the countries it's supposed to be aiding, it will probably just be spinning its wheels. (Of course, the recipient countries are also responsible for this lack of understanding.)

"Gavel" may sound like a weird name for a nation, but that's because it's more than a nation. One of the sub-themes of this story is that Gavel has taken on the name of a giant conglomerate or capital group. (About the ODA: since Japan did make a mess out of Asia in the past, and this is still having an effect on the area, it's probably best to regard the aid as a type of compensation for past exploitation... If one simply chooses to ignore Japan's efforts, that is.)

**Pg. 64** The "pinhead" referred to is, as one might assume, the ability to hit the head of a pin 100% of the time. For a short-barreled gun, 100 yards is probably the limit. I think this shooter would almost have to be a genius, but I used this figure because I don't think it's completely impossible. Of course, it's important to remember that since she's a cyborg, one can almost completely ignore FRE (forearm recoil energy). Also, this score is obtained with a high muzzle-velocity gun that uses ultra-small-caliber ammunition. One of the selling points of the Sebuero is that it doesn't jam, even when a cyborg's pulling the trigger, firing 12 rounds in three seconds...

**Pg. 65** Revolvers don't need to be loaded one cartridge at a time; some have speed loaders available that allow loading six at a time. Some can be fired quite fast in training, but if your target runs to the left while you're loading, you may lose the opportunity to fire. Under normal conditions, you probably wouldn't be able to fire at all. I'm sure you understand why. The Sebuero, however, is a gun with an extremely reliable extractor and bullets with clean neck lines, so it rarely jams. It's an example of high-precision engineering in a small firearm. The AS11 referred to is supposed to be a Chinese assault rifle based on a Korean model.



**Pg. 66** "AI" stands for artificial intelligence. This is a field of research in computer science that studies not just business-related information processing, but intelligent functions. I think of it as a knowledge/information processing device that is not human. That is, artificial. Experts hold a variety of opinions on this.

**Pg. 70** Contagious medical waste, or bio-hazardous garbage, is often poorly handled and will become a major problem in the future. Not only are the associated costs astronomical, but terrorists may start using some of the disease-carrying material. Finding a solution – create a huge, high-temperature incinerator and collection specialists; the parks and recreation can come later – should be given top priority by local governments. And hospitals: are they really sealing this stuff properly and giving it to the right parties? From what I hear, the volume isn't that great... In the illustration, our senior citizen isn't being pecked by crows, probably because he's pickled in some sort of hazardous substance.

**Pg. 77** After this kind of conversation with Togusa, Major Kusanagi probably thinks it was a mistake to have head-hunted him from police headquarters. She believes the ability to sniff out criminal activity by intuition cannot be acquired through training or experience. She calls this "ghost-whispering" and likens it to the abilities possessed by schizophrenics or channelers.

**Pg. 87** In reality, might *usually* makes right, but there are those who, in reaction to this bleak reality, believe in the opposite ideal that might *shouldn't* make right. In trying to enforce their ideal, however, might or force often becomes necessary, thus showing how difficult it is to put ideals into practice. Also, in talking about what

is right or just, whether with regard to groups or individuals, Muslim society or Christian society, etc., the different concepts of what is right lead each to view the other as evil. This makes the whole concept of right or wrong seem rather antiquated. If a consensus of the majority is all it takes to determine what is right, then having and controlling information becomes extraordinarily important.

**Pg. 98** A robot is a system – this includes computers – wherein a specific input, or instruction, results in a specific output, or performance. Some robots by themselves "can discriminate and perform multiple tasks to a certain extent." But robots are fundamentally different from androids. "Android" is a word that refers to the mecha that results when humans try to see if they can create humans using mechatronics. Conversely, it's a type of mecha that allows humans to mouth statements like, "humans are complex, but they are a system, so they can be replicated if only these components are put together in such and such a way."

**Pg. 99** AIs with prosthetic bodies probably never experience hunger, sexual desire, the desire to sleep, or even the desire for glory and honor, unless programmed to do so. If they have any desire, it's probably to expand their network or create something or control something. In other words, to grow as an information system. This is something we may know in the near future, but have no way of determining now. I don't think there's an AI superior to a human in existence yet, but how should I know? I'm only a cartoonist! The definition of a human is very vague, so when an AI superior to a human is developed, the question is: will humans really be able to recognize it?

**Pg. 100** In looking at a book on brain death, it appears that whether a ghost attaches itself to a body or not is determined partly by the activities of the cerebrum and the lower part of the thalamus. Generally speaking, what we refer to as the "spirit" or "soul" is a very vague concept, including things programmed into, or closely related to, the physical body, such as memory, the results of chemical reactions, and emotions, etc.

**Pg. 102** I'm sure there's really no need to note this, but the amount of micromachines in the solution, the amount of current applied, and the length of time, etc., are all – allowing for some error – determined by the class of micromachines. There are different types of micromachines – those that react to pressure, changes in temperature, pain – which is difficult – and they are mixed into the solution at a fixed rate. Changing the ratio of micromachines makes it possible to make a particular sense more delicate. Furthermore, for cyborgs employed in special types of labor, it's also possible to create special skin senses – such as the ability to detect gases or magnetism – that humans do not possess.

**Pg. 105** These micromachines are a bio-type created using enzymes such as luciferase (what a fiendish-sounding name!), which is found among other things in the light-emitting organs of fireflies. (In reality, they're not black spots, of course.) Someone was supposed to have genetically engineered a Japanese killifish to produce luciferase. I wonder what happened to that idea?

Major Kusanagi is deliberately designed to look like a mass-production model so she won't be too conspicuous. In reality, her electrical and mechanical system is made of ultra-sophisticated materials unobtainable on the civilian market. If

she appeared too expensive, she might be suddenly waylaid on a dark street some night, hacked up, and hauled off to be sold. "Custom models" here implies models with a prosthetic design created by a professional artist. For such cyborgs, an artist designs everything from the shape of the mechanical components to the external appearance. It is not unusual for designer-cyborgs to be over-stressed, or to have a variety of design imbalances, sometimes with grotesque results.

**Pg. 107** 16<sup>2</sup> indicates that the micromachines used for skin sensation are extremely tiny. Since obtaining these is an act of treason and thus is not available on the open market, this is something that Major Kusanagi has secretly obtained. It's clear that these women are manufacturing products of extremely high precision, but it's impossible to determine if the precision is the result of the 16<sup>2</sup>. We can assume, however, that they are using micromachines even more advanced than those on the open market. The women, therefore, don't have to worry that someone will find out what they're doing.

**Pg. 108** What do total cyborgs eat? I imagine that initially, cyborgs consumed small quantities of a paste-like substance or pills, but – partly for psychological reasons – by the time of this story, they are shown eating synthetic food such as shown here, with a "normal appearance and oral sensation," including taste. Fuchikomas, on the other hand, can last for two months by merely replenishing their tanks with a fluid mixed specially for neurochips. (Or let's assume so.) Fuchikomas aren't pure bio-robots, however.

**Pg. 110** This is not an E-brain space or virtual reality, but a 3-D video room. Colonel Tonoda

is on a platform like a huge room-runner, the orientation of which is adjustable. He's surrounded by a dome-shaped room, with scenery simulated using a retinal-projection on the white, screen-like walls. Others would not see the view he does. Golf simulators using a similar, but much cruder principle exist today.

**Pg. 117** "One life is more precious than all the stars in the heavens," or so the saying goes, but it's just a noble sentiment. In reality, a planet is worth far more than even a race of beings, including human, and thinking otherwise is a manifestation of the arrogant attitude we humans have that makes us ignore other life-forms. I hate the saying. I do have respect for human life, but I'm just trying to say that it's not as important as a whole star.

**Pg. 120** The activity of cells creates order, forming organisms, human bodies, and groups of individuals. Just as at each level, every one of these things has its own phase – if that's the right word – the phrase about the "world turning" refers to the overall speed of people's activities. This doesn't necessarily imply there is a larger, overriding conscious "world." Although they are of completely different scale, I use the words "god" and "spirit" in a similar way. Channelers are said to "speak with the will of the gods," but I don't think this means a human-like god speaks to the channeler. I think a special phase that we call "god" merely syncs with the channeler's linguistic field, physical functions, etc.

**Pg. 121** In the future, perhaps such advanced, high-precision robots (almost all androids) would not really be discarded so easily. But only a few years ago, who would have believed that the office and audio/video equipment we now take for granted would become so common? Frankly, I doubt

that true humanoid robots will become so popular. If they were mass marketed, it would probably be with a leasing system, and there would be monthly inspections. Don't forget though, that nowadays when machinery's been used for five or six years, it's scrapped or sold cheaply to other countries. The same thing's true for consumer goods with AI functions built into them.

**Pg. 123** Trichophyton and Claviceps are names of fungi. For those who want to know more, refer to W. D. Gray's *The Relationship of Fungi to Human Affairs*. There's no deep significance in using these names, but they were convenient for telling a story with lots of creepy elements. In order to keep up in the next century, Japan has got to develop micromachines and VLSI technology, and, to do that, sterilization and anti-fungi technologies will also be essential. Fungi applications and cyborgization, or using genetic engineering, will become an important theme.

**Pg. 127** For readers who demand realism, I should note that a cyborg such as the Hanka president – a master-slave, dualistic heart-mind type – probably would not function properly or be able to exist unless it had simulated internal organ signals in a fairly realistic way. We humans are normally taught to distinguish between the body and the mind, but we shouldn't forget that the brain is part of a neural net that runs through the entire body, and thus, is part of the overall system. I read a report from somewhere about an experiment that indicated, "it is possible to mechanize part of the system [the human body], but when most of the end-terminals in the system are removed, output from the autonomic nervous system practically vanishes." In this story, I'm assuming that signals in artificial, prosthetic systems have been developed to a very high level.

**Pg. 130** This is a trivial point, but rifle bullets, as we all know, are very fast, usually faster than sound, depending on distance, performance, and muzzle velocity, of course. As a result, I've deliberately avoided showing bullets strike after indicating the sound. Given the way I've drawn the rifle in this section, it wouldn't really matter, I suppose, but I did it anyway, which is a bad habit of mine. In this scene, Togusa was supposed to fire back two or three rounds and dash – with Batou covering him – which would have let the pair reach the bottom of the building faster.

**Pg. 134** The man's words in panel 7 have no particular meaning. He's just trying to get Batou's attention, and while some people might understand him, the main thing he's trying to convey is hostility. Since it works, it may be a type of incantation. He's assumed that Batou and Togusa are police from the way Togusa yelled "Freeze!" at him.

**Pg. 139** In movie scenes of special forces making indoor assaults, one often sees several people with guns drawn, charging down a hallway. They'd have to be really "special" forces to do so (ha-ha). In reality, they usually peek around a corner first and then, depending on the situation, make their move (like they did in *C15* and *The Silence of the Lambs*). In the old days, they probably used a dental mirror or something. The most important thing is to make sure you have the advantage before the enemy spots you and to not just start blasting away. The real firing should be done as support or when moving.

**Pg. 140** Normally, I hate the sort of expository lines used in the second panel and try to avoid using them, but for *Ghost in the Shell*, I've forced

myself to make an exception. The name "Gossey" is taken from A. E. van Vogt's science-fiction novel *The World of Null-A*. Adam and Link are similarly inspired by Eando Binder's *Adam Link – Robot*. If the "ghost" is a "phase" or "phenomenon," I suppose during dubbing, the original could disappear and something different would be born in its place. Regarding the smuggling, there may be those who would say this wouldn't be necessary, that Hanka would be able to breed the kids themselves, but let's assume that the food, etc., is too expensive and they've therefore decided to use stolen goods.

**Pg. 143** The boss is mistaken when he talks about the death penalty here. At the time of the story, it doesn't exist anymore. Personally, I think the death penalty should only be considered on a case-by-case basis and that it's not right to lump all those who commit crimes under the broad term of "criminals." I'm not a devotee of Hammurabi, but I do worry about giving too many advantages to the perpetrators of crimes. Perhaps people should be sentenced to "death by execution, with punishment delayed if activities benefiting society are earnestly pursued."

**Pg. 144** Regarding fleeing the country, I remember seeing the following on the news once: a serial killer sentenced to death in the United States fled to and was captured in Canada, which has no death penalty. In Canada, the argument erupted as to whether it was constitutional to return the man to the U.S., knowing that he would probably be executed. Learning of this, several highly sadistic serial killers – some of whose victims' bodies had not been found – remarked that "truly civilized nations don't have the death penalty." I don't know the upshot of that particular

case, but clearly, civilized nations with great respect for human rights are beloved by criminals so vile they wouldn't even appear in a comic book. Whatever happened to "crime and punishment"?

**Pg. 145** Regarding ordnance and equipment: in this scenario, it's being jointly managed and developed by multiple corporations. Individuals and units are simply not capable of handling the guns, prosthetic bodies, manufacturing parts requiring special materials, doing replacements and maintenance, and maintaining the equipment in the ultra-clean plants that are required.

**Pg. 152** The gun has a catch, about two centimeters above the ejection port, that throws the cartridges forward, but for right-side ejection, it ought to be possible to design a little catch, nowhere near as big as a kicker, that would scatter them downward. (What? You don't think that's a good idea?)

**Pg. 153** We won't go into detail here about the fact that a two-hour retroactive check was done later on Fuchikoma's external input record. No evidence of hacker break-in was found, but this in and of itself does not guarantee that none occurred; it merely means that operations continue, with an added element of uncertainty. I'm also not sure if an AI would really understand the concept of "profound" or not. It's used here to indicate that the information is given high priority when categorized.

**Pg. 156** Methuselah is a name from the Bible and has the connotation of someone who's lived a very long time. It's not the Soviet woman's name. "Comrade" already sounds old-fashioned, but I decided to leave it in anyway.

**Pg. 158** As far as the Northern Islands are concerned, it would be great if both the Japanese people who used to live there and the Soviets who live there now could somehow coexist. But when it comes down to an either/or situation, each side always claims historical precedent and nothing's ever resolved. Japan can assert its claim to the islands all it wants, but the assertion won't do any good as long as it's just a gesture. If only we could use all the energy expended on arguing on finding a new solution! Do we really need to defend our rights to the point of ignoring the entire Soviet Union? I know Gorby's in an unstable position and can't really develop a long-term strategy to solve the situation... but heck, the Soviets are taking too many fish in the area. (*Editor's note: this commentary was written in 1989.*)

**Pg. 160** For the moment, forget that with anti-HERO measures implemented – "HERO," or Hazards of Electromagnetic Radiation to Ordnance, refers to the damage that EMF can cause to electro-mechanical components – both the helicopter and Fuchikoma would have been switched to manual mode, the attack barrier mode would have been activated to prevent cyberbrain hacking, and the main switches would also have been cut. Also, the Bertrave cityscape is comprised of skyscrapers two kilometers high, creating a disorienting sense of scale. For instance, 1,221 meters of Mt. Bertrave are completely blocked from view by the buildings. In the drawing on this page, the mountain is rendered at around 4,500 meters above sea level, with the metropolis sprawling 11-12 kilometers out on either side. Or something like that.

**Pg. 196** Yano's family was notified only that he had "died in training" or was merely "deceased." Families are never told the details

or the truth of when, where, or how members die. At least this is better than learning about it years later, with the body somewhere unknown all that time. There are also times when deaths are reported prematurely, before a confirmation has been made, and the person is actually still alive. And, of course, there are times when death notices are sent out merely for strategic reasons.

**Pg. 198** In distributed systems engineering, there's apparently no concept of "redundancy" in a group. To remove the old micromachines – let's say one has to inject "C" parts – reverse the adsorption, make them rotate, apply a centrifugal force of  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  dyne/cell to strip them off, and then suck them out with a magnet. (Given the blood-brain barrier, it's probably not a good idea to try to run them into the bloodstream and expel them that way.)

**Pg. 205** Of course, in reality our pair would have been burned to a crisp and left without hair, clothes, or skin, but I don't show this because it would make things too confusing later on. To compensate, though, I've put an aquarium at the edge of the door, right next to the Major's boyfriend, and I've added a bathroom that's hidden by her. (I know it's normally supposed to be next to the door when you enter and that this still doesn't make up for it, but hey! Sue me!)

**Pg. 207** Armored suit: A type of bullet-resistant, fire-resistant suit, completely covering the body and consisting of an external shell of compound materials and four battery-powered limbs for locomotion that mimic human movements using master-slave technology. Although referred to by different names, some dangerous and impractical toys of a similar nature have been developed of late.

**Pg. 212** This is a pretty classic way to avoid being tailed, but it probably wouldn't work for true pros. Normally, a 24-hour tail requires considerable manpower to prepare for all eventualities; it takes careful planning. If trains or buses are being used, shifts of people going in and out of the next three or four stations are needed. If cars are being used, it requires people covering either side of the road on which the suspect is driving. In reality, of course, these operations rarely go by the book because it's impossible to prepare adequately, to get all the people required or the budget to support them. In theory, I suppose, true pros are supposed to get as close as possible to textbook situations. Using split-second judgment to station two or three henchmen is one way to get around some of these problems.

**Pg. 223** "HV" refers to actual ultra-high performance, high-velocity armor-piercing shells. In this story, after FN manufactured advanced P90 weaponry, these shells were developed for handguns and submachine guns. HV bullets are small caliber, providing low recoil and high penetration power, but they don't have very good stopping power against humans because they go right through them. Since these bullets are very effective against bulletproof vests, light armor, cyborgs, etc., in *Ghost in the Shell* they're fairly common but generally not available to civilians. The Sebuoro™ firearms our heroes carry use HV shells. Armored weaponry, like the think-tank that appears here, is necessary to go up against HV shells.

**Pg. 226** Only a total cyborg can undertake this sort of high jump. If a partial cyborg with mechanical legs or limbs tried it, this would probably cause a rupture where flesh and machine parts are joined. Although a different level of

analogy, it's sort of like the situation with artificial human bones of the  $\text{MgO-CaO-SiO}_2\text{-P}_2\text{O}_5$  glass variety, currently very popular. This material is reportedly between four to seventeen times more elastic than human bone, but because concentrated stress creates a problem, physicians apparently use something closer to actual human bones for better overall balance. In real life, of course, cyborgs are apparently being developed, not with "superpowers," but artificial tissues that attempt a substitution for bioactive materials.

**Pg. 237** Regarding Major Kusanagi's unnamed boyfriend, what looks like a bandage or a towel is actually a collagen seal designed to stop the bleeding. We'll pretend here that it's the same as an actual product currently being sold by Avitene Inc. in the United States. There is a book (available only in Japanese), published by Shogakukan on blood coagulants, titled *Jintai no Shori*, or "Victory for the Human Body," that lists for about \$60.00 (ack!) but has lots of photographs and is interesting reading.

**Pg. 238** When traffic accidents are used to assassinate people, the assassinations are extremely hard to detect. Of course, sophisticated techniques are required to make sure the assassin is unhurt while the target is killed, but I won't list them here as it might be dangerous – I don't want anyone to try them out! The fact that assassinations are used in *Ghost in the Shell* means there has been a failure in the political process. It's like rape, I suppose. If you see one happening before your eyes, you're not going to be able to talk the rapist out of it. You'll probably have to use force to stop the perpetrator. Ideally, that should happen before, not after, the rape takes place. Sad, but true.

**Pg. 241** In the hour and a half before the incident was reported, assume that a thorough attempt was made to detect operator input errors, but that it wasn't possible to turn the power off because of delivery schedules and the need to protect the robot body.

**Pg. 243** The "soul" that Batou is referring to here represents a fairly simple collection of energy, a relatively low-level spiritual structure – what I would have referred to as a "low harmonic level" in *Orion* – as opposed to a true "ghost," which is the higher level spirit attached to human bodies. "Manitou" and other "spirits" exist on an even more elevated plane and resemble what we call "gods" in the generic sense. The spirit world is infinite in its range, but from our perspective it includes everything from just below humans – from residual memories to simple insect and animal spirits – to way above humans (macrocosmic spirits at the limits of human imagination). Like human inner space, the spirit world is not vertically ordered in a hierarchy of control. Instead, the upper level is the sum of the activities of multiple sections. The same principle also applies, I suspect, to politics and ecosystems. Of course, if you select specific, individual levels to examine independently, then the entire structure appears to have a master-slave/top-down control aspect to it, but one suspects that the act of selection itself is what yields the materialistic conclusions to which people often come. If concentrated thought creates matter, molecules, chemical compounds, cells, organisms, and systems, then there is also a mode at each level of the hierarchy capable of bundling it all together.

**Pg. 247** In this story, people of Willis' generation are often not directly linked with cyberbrains because they don't want their own brains fiddled

with by cyberbrain doctors young enough to be their children. But since this also limits their dealings with the world, they try to bridge the gap through cyborgization. Willis is a good example.

**Pg. 254** It gets harder to tail in the rain because of decreased visibility, but optical camouflage becomes easier to detect (especially when moving at high speeds). Opto-cam tailing is a trademark of S-9. Batou is following two cars behind the target car.

**Pg. 268** Cyberbrain space and cyberspace are often depicted as glowing, three-dimensional graphs. This is an easy-to-understand representation, but I think cyberbrain space consists of something far more conceptual, something beyond and unrelated to our visual and audio senses. Of course, it's all right to use audio-visual representations, but the conversion seems inefficient and ultimately meaningless. After all, there is no form or sound in the cyberbrain world. And besides, we're talking about something that doesn't even exist yet – virtual reality still relies on the five human senses for its replication and thus isn't a true cyberspace – so this is all really meaningless speculation. Still, it's fun to imagine what it would be like.

**Pg. 269** For those wanting to know more about saccades, etc., rather than a book specifically on biology, I recommend an interesting work titled *Sensors and the Eyes of Living Things*, edited by Kajuro Shimizu and published by the Information Survey Association, 1985. This book – which I've recommended before – describes not how we see things with our eyes, but how we "see" light information that comes through our eyes with our brains. (Note: this book is presently only available in Japanese.)

**Pg. 271** I drew the final panel the way I did just to make it easier to understand. The core memory is by no means the core of the Puppeteer; he is the total system itself. Generally speaking, when we refer to specific "individuals," we're not referring to their brains, but to their entire body. A "ghost" in this case refers to the state of the entire body-system (it might even be called a "phase") and not to a bundle of energy in the object called a "brain," although it may be a place created by energy. In our story, the "self" that the Puppeteer refers to is an integration of information that has reached a specific level of complexity, shifted, and created a phase called "life."

**Pg. 273** According to some psychics, depending on the situation, even the spirit that we think of as the "self" (a "phase" of the system, perhaps?), may actually change mode, from thought or physical self, to a level where it is being influenced or controlled by a guardian deity, a protectorate spirit, or an original spirit, etc. If we're talking about infinite free holons in both lower and upper levels, then inner space and outer space continue *ad infinitum*. Shinto also considers things in terms of three stages – the *ikumusubi* or conscious self, the *tarumusubi* or unconscious self, and the *tamazumemusubi* or the self that transcends self.

**Pg. 274** Just as one cannot see the layout of the entire vascular system with a micro-endoscope floating in the middle of a capillary, Major Kusanagi is unable to see the exact image drawn in these panels. She would only be able to see it if she had a map of the entire system sent to her from an observational "satellite," or external source. It's sort of like the game where you put your hand in a box with a maze and with your eyes closed try to imagine what it looks like, or the way that in a dream you don't know



the exact location of all the roads or buildings in a scene; at least most people don't. In a cyberbrain network, distance and specific locations can almost be ignored, especially when the hardware is wired. The more I try to visualize it, the more this type of depiction loses meaning, I suppose.

**Pg. 275** Some readers may think that Aramaki should first use Batou and then call for outside help instead of the other way around. For the sake of clarity, let me explain. I thought that if Major Kusanagi were in trouble, and Batou did a brain dive using the same method and technology and barrier, especially since he'd be using his own barrier this time, he'd only run into the same problem. In this story, the winners and losers are not determined by guts and passion but on a digital level by the "system" and the voltage. There's no real struggle or contest; a split-second flow determines the winner.

**Pg. 277** In this case, the electrons and the magnetic force that Major Kusanagi is referring to have the same relationship as patterns and backgrounds do. I realize that Kusanagi's bit about "electron traces" is a little unclear, but it's just her way of saying it.

**Pg. 279** The Puppeteer has discovered that at each tier, the relationship between quanta creates a phase. This is also a discovery of self. "The self as part of the whole" used to consist of a relationship such as "the complex structure of natural things ÷ a part of nature," but now, phases such as society, corporations, and the state are also powerful. Most religions have anthropomorphized the upper level of the system they believe in, and thus think of it as a sort of lord over the decision-making process, but like the relationship between the mind and the body, this is not really a higher-level

control. It should be thought of as a phase (mode) of the totality.

**Pg. 283** What do you think are the top three events in history? In the context of the story, Major Kusanagi is thinking of the discovery of fire, electronics, or electricity, and the creation of life. I realize these are kind of vague! I know that some people would probably list the wheel, computers, nuclear energy, or writing, language, or death, which is a big one. All are important. In my way of thinking, fire differentiated man from apes, and electronics includes information processing by computers. I can understand why some people would leave out physical tools, but not including language and writing systems (and symbols), and especially death? Well . . .

**Pg. 284** The fact that I have a lot of religious references in my comics recently – *Orion* is another example – has nothing to do with the popularity of new religions in Japan. I include the reference because I think that as society ages and enters an era where high-tech and philosophical problems are increasingly intertwined – issues regarding brain death and the environment – organized religion is one of our biggest obstacles. At the start of the twenty-first century, around the time a savior is prophesied to return, I believe the fusion of science and religion is going to be one of the most critical issues facing us. Religion will have a huge role in issues of abortion, blood transfusions, bio-meat for consumption, and the use of fetuses and the dead for bio parts.

**Pg. 286** Kusanagi's skull is made with a titanium shell, and she has a large number of prosthetic enhancements, so she really does

have to worry about sinking. But not all cyborgs sink – some models are designed to float with special foam-based materials.

**Pg. 288** Y-3 does not refer to a submarine but to a cyborg in the *shape* of one, covered with muscle tissue on both sides, extending back to a tail.

**Pg. 293** Gertex is a coined term. It's a Czech-manufactured plastic explosive (PE), second in popularity only to Semtex. A real headache for security, it can't be detected by sensors at airports, yet only ten ounces of it can blow a 747 to smithereens. Gertex does not exist in the real world.

**Pg. 297** Use of strategic, nuclear weapons is referred to as "H. (high) I.C.," traditional warfare is referred to as "M. (middle) I.C.," and conflicts involving low levels of destruction are referred to as being "L.I.C."

There are examples of this type of exchange in the British Parliament, but in Japan, with its shadowy back-room politics, it seems highly improbable.

**Pg. 300** If you're confused, this is Kusanai's Section One boyfriend from chapter eight.

**Pg. 303** MOSSAD is the world-famous Israeli intelligence agency which – in the era of this story – has gone a little soft.

**Pg. 314** Japan used to have a jury system, but it was suspended, not abolished, in 1943. November 1, 1990 is the one-hundredth anniversary of Japan's modern judicial system. In recent years, there has been a movement to reconsider the use of jury trials and other forms of citizen participation in the legal system.

**Pg. 329** Kusanagi and Batou's car is obviously not from Public Security's vehicle department. Nor is it one of many they've hidden throughout the city. They're simply driving a stolen car. They've removed the plates and replaced them with their own, and these plates are forged versions of VIP numbers that they've researched. It's one of young Batou's clever little ideas. He figures that if any problems occur, it'll at least make the authorities hesitate before responding.

**Pg. 332** Major Kusanagi is worried about the vehicles in panel three because she can't imagine multiple thieves breaking into such a large facility and carrying off everything they steal on foot. In addition to the three dead thieves, she thinks someone else must have fled in a vehicle. Of course, there's always the possibility that there were only three thieves who came on foot and really did plan to carry out the loot, but since they're dead, she doesn't have to worry about that situation.

**Pg. 333** Panels four and five show a screw-activated switch, the type used in bomb casings. But in this era, the system is electronically activated with only a half-turn because shape-memory alloy wire is used. As a result, the easiest way to dispose of bombs is to cover them with a titanium shell and blow them up.

**Pg. 334** It's not clear in this story whether the actual metal body was corroded when the mold attacked the aluminum alloy coating, but when Batou sees the mold-covered mechanism he says, "Mold?! On an **aluminum compound**!?" Given the setting, it may be the result of a micromachine – in this case a microcrobial robot – weapon, but I for one certainly hope that such a weapon is never manufactured. (How irresponsible of me to believe this without basis.)

**Pg. 336** In panel five, Batou is not trying to hide in a locker. He's entered a secret passageway through an opening disguised as a locker. In reality, there's a huge duct right under the locker, so they've really just carved a hole in the duct and closed and locked off the other entrances.

**Pg. 338** Concerning the fissioning pyramid indicated with protons (yangerons): this is a diagram of a system, so it ignores the actual numbers at each different level. As with powers of ten, in terms of size, the progression would be [microscopic constructions → human size → heavenly body size], but in terms of structural complexity it would instead be [microscopic constructions → heavenly body size → human size], which is also the order in which they were actually created. In this sense, in the third panel on the next page the more one enters the middle region, the newer and more complex the system becomes. Please view it as being in the realm of "human size." In other words, from the level of complexity, it's inevitable that the micro and macro worlds resemble each other.

**Pg. 339** I've read somewhere that in the very distant future, after  $10^{107}$  seconds have elapsed, the material universe will become an extremely rarefied – and when I say "rarefied" here I mean really rarefied! – gas of electrons, positrons, and photons and will stabilize. With this kind of universe, it's hard not to start imagining such implausible things as the eternalness of God or spiritual trips unhindered by the speed of light.

**Pg. 342** I'm sure everyone is aware of the theory of the void-like nature of the galaxy, but the idea of a rotating universe is probably a product of my own vivid imagination. My reference to "moment" may be a completely inappropriate and silly analogy,

but who knows what time is really like, anyway? In the second panel, in terms of a signal, I think that complete homogeneity would represent death. True randomness is something machines are actually better at than humans, so a "biased-randomness" in and of itself may be a characteristic of life.

**Pg. 343** For an interesting definition of life, I recommend von Neumann's ideas as described in "An Information Theory Definition of Life" in chapter 11 of the book by William Poundstone titled *The Recursive Universe: Cosmic Complexity and the Limits of Scientific Knowledge* Contemporary Books, Inc.. It has descriptions of everything from dead bodies to clones, but – what the heck – I wouldn't know how to classify an old man with dementia who's finished his genetic replication. Unless somebody can define holons, it seems to me that organ transplants will make this problem spiritually impossible to resolve. But if self-replication can be considered a life-form, then intelligence should be, too. The real problem is that "life" is a such an unscientific word.

**Pg. 344** The "altered-species/glider" that the Puppeteer is referring to probably includes the slack and "play" that he would gain as a result of incorporating Kusanagi. "Glider" has no specific meaning here... I know it's not ideal for this situation.

# AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

## SHIROW MASAMUNE

Shirow Masamune was born in Japan on Nov. 23, 1961. Shirow studied drawing and oil painting at the Osaka University of Art, and while there, he wrote and drew his first published comic, *Black Magic*, for fanzine *Atlas*.

After graduating, Shirow taught high-school art. During those years, he created *Appleseed*, the first volume of which was published in 1985 by Seishinsha. *Dominion* followed in 1986. That same year, *Appleseed* won the Galaxy Award – equivalent to the U.S. Hugo – for best science-fiction comic. Shirow continued to release volumes of *Appleseed* at regular intervals, until the publication of the fourth volume in 1989.

After assisting in the direction and character design of the *Black Magic M-66* animation video, Shirow began work on *Ghost in the Shell*. The first episode appeared in 1990 in Kodansha's *Young Magazine*. About this time, *Dominion* was made into an extremely successful animated video series, now available in English.

After writing and drawing several new episodes of *Appleseed*, Shirow decided to take a hiatus from producing the series he considers his "life's work." He had also been working for Fujimi Publishing on the *Neurohard* series, a "bible for a shared world" which, when complete, will serve as a blueprint other creators can follow to

make animation, games, comics, etc., based on the world Shirow has created. In 1995, Shirow released *Dominion: Conflict 1*.

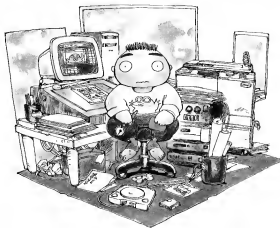
November of 1995 featured not only the release of the feature-film version of *Ghost in the Shell*, directed by Mamoru Oshii, but the initial chapter of the Shirow's *Ghost in the Shell* sequel, *Man-Machine Interface*. When finally collected in 2001, Shirow had completely re-imagined the original work, adding over 100 pages of stunning color art, utilizing state-of-the-art digital imaging unlike

anything seen before in a work of graphic fiction. The *Ghost in the Shell* franchise again expanded in 2002 with the acclaimed animated TV series, *Stand Alone Complex*, and 2004 saw not only the release of another spectacular *Ghost in the Shell* animated

feature, *Innocence* (again directed by Mamoru Oshii), but a second adaptation of *Appleseed*, Japan's first full-length CGI film, directed by Shinji Aramaki.

Over the years, Shirow has produced a vast body of design and illustration work, much of this material being collected in the ongoing *Intron Depot* series of art books.

An extremely private individual – "Shirow Masamune" is a pseudonym – Shirow lives and works in Hyogo, Japan, following the loss of his house in the 1995 Kobe earthquake, enjoys reading, and keeps numerous spiders as pets.







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